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Characters

IceClan
Leader
Crowstar- dark brown tom with golden-brown cheeks
Deputy
Waterspots- black tom with pale blue eyes (apprentice- Ripplepaw)
Medicine Cats
Sorrelwing- brown she cat with a gray belly
Bluefire- silver ticked tabby she cat
Warriors
Flowerbriar- light brown she cat with ginger paws
Sootface- blue-gray tom with pale blue eyes (apprentice- Graypaw)
Mouseflight- golden brown tabby tom
Tawnybee- dark gray she cat with a dark ginger chest
Specklecloud- dark ginger spotted tabby tom
Morningfang- light ginger she cat with red eyes
Pricklesplash- white tom
Sparrowtalon- tortoiseshell she cat
Robinmist- blue-gray tom
Clawtail- dark gray she cat with brown ears
Clouddapple- dark ginger she cat with light green eyes
Foxfrost- cream tom with a gloden-brown neck
Fernwhisker- tortoiseshell ticked tabby she cat
Thrushburr- blue-gray tom with dark gray patches
Weaselheart- gray tom with a white nose
Milkshade- light ginger she cat with amber eyes
Runningrabbit- brown tom with golden brown ears
Dustspring- golden brown tom with midnight blue eyes
Apprentices
Ripplepaw- dark gray spotted tabby tom
Graypaw- light gray tom with a light brown tail tip
Queens
Tallsplash- ginger she cat with dark yellow eyes (mate- Robinmist) - three kits
Applekit- dark gray tom with a brown nose
Fuzzykit- dark ginger tom with dark yellow eyes

Troutkit- blue-gray she cat with cream colored ears
Yellowstripe- white classic tabby she cat (mate- Mouseflight) - two kits
Robinkit- brown she cat with amber eyes
Gorgekit- golden-brown tom, missing his claws
Leaffall- ginger tabby she cat with green eyes (mate- Waterspots)- two kits
Pinekit- dark ginger she cat with a black nose
Stripekit- white she cat with black patches and light ginger patches with faint stripes
Elders
Brackenwillow- golden brown tom with amber eyes
Brightpool- gray spotted tabby she cat with a scar across her left eye
Cinderstorm- ginger mackerel tabby she cat with dark brown paws

CloudClan
Leader
Longstar- ginger she cat with dark brown paws
Deputy
Blazefeather- light brown she cat with a ginger tail tip
Medicine Cats
Willowflower- gray tom with a light ginger muzzle
Bouncebright- white tom with a gray face
Warriors
Gooseshine- golden brown she cat with a gray chest
Seedclaw- light ginger tom with silver ears
Leopardfur- blue-gray tom with a brown nose (apprentice- Pinepaw)
Poppynose- tortoiseshell she cat
Cedarscar- blue-gray ticked tabby she cat
Silverthroat- calico tom
Ashstep- golden brown she cat with dark green eyes
Hazewind- white she cat with midnight blue eyes
Tigerspot- gray she cat with red eyes
Brambleflake- light brown tom with dark gray stripes
Nightberry- ginger she cat
Firesky- golden brown she cat
Mistspirit- black tom with a brown nose and light gray stripes
Smokestrike- dark gray classic tabby she cat
Onebird- gray tom with hazel eyes

Mintdust- light gray tom with soft yellow eyes
Apprentices
Pinepaw- dark ginger tom with light ginger patches
Queens
Goldenhawk- dark brown she cat with one missing claw (mate- Brambleflake)- two kits
Pouncekit- dark gray she cat with dark ginger paws
Barkkit- brown she cat with a light gray tail tip
Elders
Toadtooth- light ginger classic tabby tom
Spiderspots- silver tom with light green eyes
Darkbreeze- calico she cat

Characters part 2

FrostClan
Leader
Hazelstar- cream she cat with a scar over her left eye (apprentice- Treepaw)
Deputy
Frosteye- dark gray she cat with a scar on her right flank (apprentice- Reedpaw)
Medicine cats
Featherstem- gray she cat
Dapplewhisper- dark ginger mackerel tabby she cat
Warriors
Shadowpelt- white classic tabby she cat
Sageleap- blue-gray spotted tabby she cat
Thornbelly- ginger tom with hazel eyes
Gorseflower- blue-gray tom with dark yellow eyes (apprentice- Cedarpaw)
Mudpad- golden brown she cat with amber eyes (apprentice- Wetpaw)
Snowsong- dark gray tom with light ginger patches
Breezesnow- gray tom with golden brown paws (apprentice- Riverpaw)
Rainspeck- brown she cat with a golden brown muzzle
Redtuft- dark brown tom with a white nose and black paws
Sandlight- dark brown she cat with a black nose
Cloverfoot- brown spotted tabby tom
Russetblaze- light brown tom with bright blue eyes
Tinyeyes- golden brown she cat with pale blue eyes
Buzzarddrop- dark ginger tom with red eyes
Brownskip- light brown tom with a scar on his left cheek
Apprentices
Cedarpaw- ginger tom with light brown paws
Wetpaw- silver she cat with a white nose
Treepaw- ginger mackerel tabby tom
Riverpaw- calico tom
Reedpaw- black she cat with light green eyes

Queens
Emberfern- white she cat with dark brown eyes (mate- Redtuft)- two kits
Stonekit- lanky siamese tom with wide ice blue eyes and flecks of gray and black
Flowerkit- dark brown tom with dark brown eyes
Echomask- brown she cat with white patches (mate- Breezesnow)- three kits
Sproutkit- long haired golden brown tom
Smallkit- small brown tom with blue-green eyes
Goosekit- gray tom with brown paws
Snakeflame- dark cream she cat (mate- Buzzarddrop)- two kits
Foxkit- dark ginger she cat with hazel eyes
Blackkit- dark cream colored she cat with brown eyes
Halfstream- black she cat with a cream colored muzzle (mate- Cloverfoot)- one kit
Milkkit- brown tom
Elders
Volewatcher- cream tom with a dark brown face
Rockjaw- black tom with a brown nose
Cherrypuddle- black she cat
Stumpyfall- brown tom with soft yellow eyes
Blackleaf- silver tom with amber eyes

MoonClan
Leader
Pebblestar- black she cat with gray patches
Deputy
Swiftbright- gray tom with a scar on his left flank
Medicine cats
Beechbranch- ginger tom (apprentice- Shadepaw)
Heatherwater- dark brown she cat with a silver neck
Warriors
Thunderdapple- black tom with a cream colored face
Sharpsplash- cream tom with a dark brown chest
Sunstripe- black she cat with a white nose
Brokenfeather- dark brown she cat with purple eyes
Brindlewing- brown she cat with dark green eyes
Willowbriar- silver she cat with dark yellow eyes
Owlflower- black she cat with amber eyes

Patchwillow- dark ginger she cat with one bright blue eye and one hazel eye
Littlebright- brown she cat with blue-gray stripes
Ratfire- gray tom with three missing claws
Molefrost- brown tom with light brown paws
Kinkpool- dark ginger she cat with a brown chest
Mothshine- ginger mackerel tabby tom
Stonestorm- cream classic tabby tom
Apprentices
Shadepaw- light gray she cat
Queens
Shortnose- dark brown she cat with a dark gray tail tip (mate- Molefrost)- four kits
Raggedkit- light brown tabby she cat
Hollykit- light brown tom with light gray paws
Fawnkit- brown tom with a silver tail tip
Rowankit- light brown tom with gray ears
Elders
Splashflight- gray tom with a ginger muzzle
Windhawk- light brown she cat with a pink nose
Scorchwind- tortoiseshell she cat
Jaggedblaze- golden brown she cat with soft yellow eyes

Kittypets
Teddybear- young, sleek, black tom
Carter- young, thick-furred brown tom
Willy- young siamese tom

Troutkit

Troutkit sat beside her brothers and stared down at the two bundles of fur in nest beside theirs. She stifled a hiss as she watched them. It was bad enough having Robinkit and Gorgekit around. Now they had Pinekit and Stripekit. Why couldn't it just but her, Applekit, and Fuzzykit? She stormed out of the den made of frost-bitten branches and sat in the ever-present snow in the camp clearing. It just wasn't fair! How would she ever prove herself a great warrior if new kits kept coming along and stealing the attention from her?

Troutkit stood at the edge of the group of warriors alongside Applekit and Fuzzykit. It was finally time for their apprentice ceremony. Just a moon earlier, all attention had been on Stripekit and Pinekit. But now, all attention was on her and her brothers. Her heart raced as Crowstar jumped down from the tree stump.
"Applekit, please step forward." He called. Applekit nervously approached the leader. "Your mentor shall be Pricklesplash..."
Troutkit drowned out the rest, waiting impatiently for her turn. She watched Fuzzykit touch nozes with Clouddapple and then it was her turn. She hardly heard a word Crowstar said. She just kept hoping, over and over, that her mentor would be Tawnybee.
"Your mentor shall be Weaselheart." The phrase crushed Troutkit's heart. But still, she refrained from complaining as the clan cheered their names.
"Applepaw!"
"Fuzzypaw!"
"Troutpaw!"
As the cats of the IceClan called her name, she felt a purr rise in her throat. How much better would this feel when they call her warrior name?
"Troutpaw? It's time for you to see the clan territories." Weaselheart told her. She tried not to growl at the thought of him training her. Once her clanmates had finished congratulating her and her siblings, the six of them headed out of the camp. Just like the dens, the wall that protected them was made of frost-bitten branches woven together. Outside the camp walls was a pine forest that

extended into MoonClan's territory. On the other side was CloudClan, a frozen moor with nothing but grass and a few bare gorse bushes. A river, nearly frozen solid, half-circled IceClan territory and veered off over the frozen moor. Between the moor and the pines was a forest that should have been too cold to sustain oaks, but the oaks still grew and still had leaves. That was FrostClan territory. On the opposite side of FrostClan from IceClan was a small Twolegplace.

Troutpaw collapsed in the clearing when they got back. She was exhausted. Her littermates slumped down next to her, panting. They had toured the whole territory and then raced each other back to camp. Fuzzypaw soon stood and headed to the fresh-kill pile. Applepaw then stood and headed to the nursery.

Growling, Troutpaw fluffed up her blue-gray pelt for warmth. What was Applepaw heading there for? They were apprentices now! Shaking snowflakes from her pelt, Troutpaw stood up and followed him. Upon entering the nursery, she bit back a growl. There was her brother, an apprentice, talking to a kit! Stripekit listened intently as Applepaw described the territory. Disgusted that her brother was still friends with a kit, she marched away from the nursery entrance.

Pouncekit

Pouncekit stepped out of the nursery and gazed around. Immediately, her dark gray fur puffed up.
"Great SunClan, it's cold!" She meowed, batting at the ground with her dark ginger paws.
"Well, it is snow. Snow is frozen water." Her littermate, Barkkit, explained. Then a thought popped into Pouncekit's mind.
"Mama, why do we call our ancestors SunClan?" She asked.
"Well..." Goldenhawk began as she followed her kits out of the nursery. "In SunClan, there is no snow, no frost, no ice. They are always warm."
"That makes sense." Pouncekit decided, taking another step out into the snow. She streched her neck to peer over the large boulders that protected the camp and the cats from the wind. It was everywere, the snow. All across the moor, swept up in clouds by the fierce wind. Goldenhawk followed her kit's gaze.
"The snowfall was particularly bad last night. Usually, the wind has whisked away all the snow by now." She explained. "This is the type of day when hunting is bad. On other days, all the prey is used to the cold so it doesn't hide."
Pouncekit tried to listen to her mothers words, but she had to focus on wading over the snow. Eventually, she and her sister made it across the camp.
"Alright now, come back to the nursery." Goldenhawk called to the kits.
"Aww, but why? Can't you just carry us back?" Barkkit protested.
"Snow-walking is a very important practice. You have to walk the perimeter of the camp without stumbling, slipping, or complaining about the cold the day before you are made an apprentice. If you fail, you have to wait a moon before you can try again. Would you like that?" Goldenhawk asked.
Barkkit and Pouncekit shook their heads before setting off across the clearing again. Once they reached the nursery, they both collapsed in their nest, exhausted.

The next day, the snow on the moor was gone. Though, of course, it

was still present in the camp. To practice their snow-walking, Pouncekit and Barkkit decided to travel around the camp and meet some of the other members of the clan. First, they waded over to the meeting boulder to watch the dawn patrols being formed. Blazefeather stood proudly on top of it, calling out orders.
"Seedclaw, take Hazewind, Smokestripe, and Leopardfur on a hunting patrol. Tigerspot, take Onebird, Gooseshine, and Ashstep on a border patrol. Mistspirit, take Nightberry and Cedarscar on another hunting patrol. Longstar and I will join you." She finished, flicking her light brown and ginger tail to dismiss the cats.
Once the cats had split up, Pouncekit and Barkkit stood and headed for the fresh-kill pile. There they found Firesky. She seemed to be trying to decide what to eat.
"Hi, Ashstep!" Pouncekit called, recognizing the golden brown pelt.
"Sorry to disappoint you, but Ashstep is going on a border patrol right now." Firesky purred. "I'm Firesky."
"O-oh... Sorry, Firesky..." Pouncekit mewed, her dark gray ears burning.
"It's alright. Hey, would you like to help me pick my prey?" She asked.
"Sure." Barkkit mewed as she stepped forward to sniff the pile.
"What is this? A snow-hare?" Pouncekit asked, pawing at a white animal with long ears.
"It is." Firesky purred.
"Oh. Eat that, then." Pouncekit told her.
"I would, but I can't eat all that!" Firesky pointed out.
"Well, we would eat it with you, but we can't eat meat yet..." Pouncekit mewed thoughtfully.
"I know! You can share it with Mintdust!" Barkkit decided. Firesky blinked at the kit in surprise. But as she gazed at the light gray tom, she decided it may not be a bad idea. She grabbed the snow-hare and trotted over to him. Barkkit and Pouncekit glanced at eachother and giggled.
"Playing matchmaker now, are we?" A light brown tom with dark gray stripes purred as he padded up behind them.
"Brambleflake!" The kits called as they launched themselves at their father.
"Let's play Arctic Fox!" Pouncekit mewed, jumping up and down on her father's shoulders.
"Okay, okay." Brambleflake purred. He crouched down and snarled

like a fox.
"We'll get you, mean fox!" Barkkit mewed, leaping at her father.
"We'll teach you to trespass!" Pouncekit shrieked, joining her sister.
Happily, they played in the clearing until sunhigh.

Pouncekit sneezed violently as she stepped outside. Goldenhawk had warned her that she would get sick if she went outside every day like she had been for the past half moon, but she didn't listen. She felt at home in the snow. She liked it so much that being warm just didn't seem normal anymore. Barkkit didn't agree, though. She hadn't been venturing out of the nursery near as much as Pouncekit. She sneezed again, this time right as Willowflower exited the medicine den.
"Pouncekit!" He called, rushing toward her. "I told you to stay inside!"
"But I-" her argument was cut off by a third sneeze.
"Look at that, you're already sick." He meowed as he watched her try to stagger away from him. Ignoring her protests, he picked her up and carried her to the medicine den.

Flowerkit

"Hey, Stonekit, watch this!" Flowerkit called to his brother. Once he saw that the lanky siamese had settled his wide, half closed eyes on him, he stepped up to the camp wall. With one massive leap, he pushed himself off the ground and landed directly on top of the wall, which was three or four tail-lengths high.
"Woah... I wanna try!" Stonekit called, promptly launching himself face-first into the wall of frost-bitten branches. Flowerkit laughed as he watched his brother struggle to his paws.
"I'm the leader of FrostClan! All warriors shall bow to me!" Flowerkit declared as he strutted along the wall, head and tail held high.
"You better get down from there, or else!" Volewatcher hissed from below.
"Or what, old cat? What will you do?" Flowerkit hissed back, tail waving indignantly.
"Or I'll tell Emberfern!" He replied pointedly. Flowerkit promptly leaped down from the wall.
"Buzz-kill!" Stonekit yowled. He tried to kick snow at the elder but failed, losing his balance and rolling over in the snow. "I ment to do that!" He called as he stood and shook the snow out of his fur.
"You definitely did not." Flowerkit grumbled, shoving Stonekit back into the snow. He laughed at the look on his brothers face as Stonekit glared at him. But suddenly, his ice-blue eyes glowed with amusement.
"Wha-?" Flowerkit's question was cut off as four paws landed squarely on his back. He huffed as snow filled his mouth and he spun around to face his attacker, hissing. He immediately flinched away as his gaze met Blackkit's. She laughed as he backed away from her.
"C'mon, Blackkit! Is that necessary?" Blackkit's sister, Foxkit, protested as she finally caught up.
"Of course it is!" Blackkit declared. Foxkit sighed as she watched Smallkit rush out of the nursery to join them, lauching himself onto Flowerkit. Of course, Smallkit wasn't big enough to knock him over. Flowerkit shook him off and, seeing that Volewatcher had gone

back inside his den, he jumped up on the wall again.
"All kits, gather here beneath me for a meeting!" He yowled.
Sproutkit, Goosekit, and Milkkit rushed out to join them. Blackkit scrambled up the wall and shoved Flowerkit, who half-fell-half-climbed down the branches.
"So, as you all know, I am leader of this group..." Blackkit began jokingly, her cream colored chest puffed out with mock pride.
"But I thought I was leader!" Sproutkit protested.
"No, I'm the leader! Right?" Flowerkit asked.
"But what if I'm the actual leader?" Smallkit meowed.
"I think Blackkit would make a good leader." Foxkit mewed, huddling between Sproutkit and Smallkit for warmth. "Or Flowerkit." She added in a whisper.
Blackkit watched them bicker, amused. "I'm joking, I'm joking. The leader is Foxkit."
The dark ginger she cat froze in surprise. "Oh... Can Flowerkit take my place for the day?"
"Thank you, Foxkit." Flowerkit meowed as he trotted past her, leaping back onto the wall. Blackkit decided to take her position in the small crowd by shoving Smallkit away from her sister and taking his place, prompting a somewhat annoyed sigh from Foxkit.
"So... Um... If anyone asks were I am, just tell them that we are playing hide and seek and you gave up on trying to find me because I hide to well or something like that, 'kay?" Flowerkit told them as he turned and leaped off the camp wall into the forest. Gazing around to make sure no one was watching, the other kits scrambled after him. Foxkit was the first one over because she needed the most help. Once she was over, she caught up to Flowerkit.
"Where are we going?" She asked once she reached him.
"We?" He asked. "Everyone is following me, aren't they?" He sighed. "Yeah... I would've stayed behind, but I'm not staying back there if it means lying about where literally every other kit in the clan is. I'm usually a pretty good lier, but no lie I could possibly come up with would work in this situation." She explained.
"I see..." He sighed. The others soon joined them and they set off with Flowerkit leading the way.

Applepaw

Applepaw stood and stretched before heading out of the apprentices den to see which patrol he'd be on.
"Tallsplash, take Weaselheart, Troutpaw, and Trushburr hunting by the river. Specklecloud, take Pricklesplash, Applepaw, and Clawtail on a border patrol. Foxfrost, take Fernwhisker..." Waterspots continued list warriors as Applepaw hurried toward his patrol which was already forming by the camp entrance.
Once they were all there, they set off. Specklecloud took the lead with Prickleslash and Applepaw on his heels. Clawtail lagged behind. They kept up a brisk pace, only stopping once they reached the river.
"It's been getting a little warmer, so be careful." Specklecloud called to the patrol. He took a cautious step onto the ice. It creaked ominously beneath his paws, but he slowly crawled across anyway. The rest of the patrol followed. It seemed like they were going to get across without any issues, until a loud crack split the air and the ice at the center of the river fell away.
"Run!" Pricklesplash screeched.
Applepaw sprinted as fast as he could and leaped safely onto the opposite shore beside his mentor. He spun around to see if Specklecloud and Clawtail had made it. He sighed with releif when he saw them both laying on either side of Pricklesplash. Once they had all caught their breath, Specklecloud stood and set off.
"How are we going to get back to the camp?" Applepaw whimpered. Was there a bridge somewhere that he didn't know about?
"We'll just have to jump over the part where the ice fell away." Clawtail told him. Applepaw shivered.
"Or find another place along the river where the ice is thicker." Specklecloud suggested.
"That would be better." Pricklesplash nodded.
The patrol trekked on in silence, checking the MoonClan border and half of the FrostClan border. There they met up with the other border patrol, which had checked the CloudClan border and the other half of the FrostClan border. Specklecloud told them about the river before signaling for his patrol to follow him home. They

trotted back through their forest until they came across the river.
"We aren't actually going to jump, are we?" Applepaw asked, slinking away from the edge of the ice.
"Of course not." Specklecloud growled at Clawtail before leading the patrol downstream for nearly three tree lengths. Cautiously, Specklecloud placed a paw on the ice. When it didn't make a sound, he signaled for the others to follow. They slowly crept across until they finally stood safely on the other side. Applepaw let out a loud sigh of relief as he took his final step off the ice. Happily, he followed the others to the camp.
"Applepaw?" A soft voice called as they returned. Surprised, he turned to see Stripekit trotting toward him, up to her belly in snow.
"Stripekit! You're felling well again!" He purred. She had been in the Medicine Den for eight sunrises.
"Yeah. So, how was the patrol?" She asked.
"Well, it was quite an adventure!" Applepaw purred before describing every detail of the patrol.

Pinepaw

"Is Pouncekit going to be okay?" Pinepaw asked as Willowflower excited the medicine den.
"Honestly, I'm not sure." He sighed. "Her whitecough isn't getting better."
Pinepaw flattened his ears as he thought of the poor young she cat. She loved snow walking so much. She just wanted to see as much as she could, but now she may never get to explore the territory outside the camp.
"How about you go ask Leopardfur if you can come hunting with me?" Poppynose suggested when she saw his expression. He nodded and headed off to find his mentor. He spotted him deep in conversation with Ashstep and wondered if he should interrupt or not.
"Brambleflake is pretty upset about it." He heard Leopardfur say.
"And why wouldn't he be? His kit is going to-" Leopardfur motioned for Ashstep to be quite as noticed Pinepaw approaching. But he didn't need to hear the rest of her sentence to know what she was going to say.
"I... I just wanted to know if I could... Go hunting with Poppynose." He asked slowly.
"Yes. Yes, of course." Leopardfur nodded, a solemn look in his eyes. Pinepaw dipped his head to his mentor before turning toward the entrance. It took all his will power to not sprint out of the camp.

The rabbit raced at top speed, only a tail length from Pinepaw's claws. He leaped, forepaws extended. He caught it, though just barely.
"Great catch, Pinepaw!" Poppynose called as he bit it's spine. He sat, panting and staring at his catch. As he caught his breath, his mind slipped back to Pouncekit.
Pinepaw didn't have any real littermates, but that didn't stop Pouncekit from acting like his sister all the time. She had been the first to congratulate him when he was made an apprentice, even though she wasn't supposed to be out of the nursery yet. She couldn't walk on snow yet, but she had asked Goldenhawk carry her

outside just so she could watch. Goldenhawk obliged, to the horror of Pouncekit's sister, Barkkit. She always followed every rule, unlike her littermate.
"Are you ready to head back to camp?" Poppynose asked as Pinepaw picked up his catch. He nodded. He thought of Pouncekit the whole way back, too. How she always bothered Darkbreeze, how she asked him every day when she would get to patrol with him, how she always played with him when he was bored.
But as he entered the camp, he realized that he would just have to deal with his boredom by himself now. He dropped his rabbit and raced toward the small dark gray bundle that the clan had gathered around.
"No... Dear SunClan, no..." He whimpered as he slumped down beside Pouncekit.
"She wanted to be outside in her last moments..." Willowflower whispered.
"Pinepaw?" She croaked, crawling toward him on her small dark ginger paws. "Tell me story." She whispered, curling into a ball beside him.
"No! She'll get him sick!" Pinepaw's mother, Gooseshine called. She tried to run toward him, but Seedclaw held her back. Pinepaw wrapped his tail around the tiny kit. She was hardly a moon old.
"Once, there was a kit. She was the bravest kit in the whole world. Every day, she explored as much as she could. She was so brave, in fact, that they made her a warrior before she was even two moons old." He told her. Understanding the story, Longstar stepped forward.
"Pouncekit, you have been strong and brave not only in these past few days, but your whole life. From this moment on, you shall be known as Pouncewing."
"Pouncewing! Pouncewing!" CloudClan chanted.
"Pouncewing. I always hoped that would be my warrior name." She whimpered.
"Congratulations, Pouncewing." Pinepaw purred, wrapping his tail around her more tightly.
"Don't forget about me, okay?" Pouncewing whispered.
"Of course I wont forget about you." Pinepaw promised.
And so, with everyone still cheering her warrior name, Pouncewing breathed her last breath.

Cedarpaw

"Were did they go?" A distressed yowl split the air. Cedarpaw sat up in his nest and looked around frantically, shocked out of his sleep.
"My kits! My precious kits!" Another voice chimed in. Cedarpaw watched through the entrance to his den as Redtuft rushed across the clearing to calm his mate. Cedarpaw yawned and scrambled out of his nest to see what was happening.
"Hey, Sandlight!" He called to the dark brown she cat. "What's going on with the queens?"
"The kits have gone missing." She replied calmly.
"They have? Which ones?" Cedarpaw inquired.
"All of them." She told him. Cedarpaw shook his head in disbelief as the clan gathered around to address the issue.
"We need to send out search parties. Tinyeyes, Rainspeck, Halfstream, and Cloverfoot will search the forest on CloudClan's side. Brownskip, Sageleap, Emberfern, and Redtuft will search the forest on MoonClan's side. Gorseflower, Cedarpaw, Snakeflame, and Buzzarddrop will search on IceClan's side. Mudpad, Wetpaw, and Echomask will search by towlegplace. Try to hunt and refresh the border marks while you are out. Hazelstar, Treepaw, Reedpaw, and I will search the gathering place and question the leader of each clan. Shadowpelt, you are in charge of the camp while we are gone." Frosteye announced. Gorseflower set of immediately, giving Cedarpaw no time to clean his ginger fur.
"We will start searching were the river meets the border. If they've found their way there, they may need immediate help." Gorseflower decided. Snakeflame shivered at the thought and Buzzarddrop had to drape his tail over her shoulders to calm her. Cedarpaw stopped suddenly and turned to face them.
"We will find them. No matter what. I promise." He told them pointedly, chin held high. His eyes, burning with determination, bore into Buzzarddrop's red eyes, willing him to believe, until the dark ginger tom looked away. Snakeflame nodded slowly and they set off again.

By the time they had reached the river, their noses were too frozen

to pick up any sent. But that didn't stop them from staring at the dazzling snow, trying to find even a trace of a paw print. They walked along the whole border, back and forth until their paws ached.
"It's hopeless!" Snakeflame yowled at last. She dropped to the ground and covered her face with her front paws. Buzzarddrop rushed to her side. Gorseflower shook his head solemnly at the queen.
"Oh my precious little kits..." She whimpered.
"C'mon, Snakeflower. They'll be okay. It'll only be a few sunrises at the most until we find them. They can survive that long." Buzzarddrop told her.
"Blackkit can, maybe, but not Foxkit! If a fly buzzes in her ear, she sprints halfway across camp out of fear! What would she do if she were in real danger?" She yowled, lashing her dark cream tail in frustration. "I should have paid closer attention to them... It's the tom's fault, I'm sure. Milkkit is fine but those other five are nothing but trouble." She hissed.
"Don't go blaming it in them! How would Emberfern and Echomask react if they heard you say that?"
"It's just the truth! Anything they do, she does! Anywhere any of them go, she goes! And she and Blackkit are always together, too. They must have just been following those toms. It's what they do."
Cedarpaw sighed as he watched the two argue. With such an attitude, they'd never find the kits. Even if I hey did, the five toms wouldn't receive a warm welcome from everyone. Surely Snakeflame and Halfstream would lecture them from dawn to dusk. Maybe Emberfern and Echomask would, too. How would that make them want to stay?

Teddybear

Teddybear stepped outside and looked around. His housefolk's kits were playing happily in the snow while Carter sat curled up on top of the fence. Teddybear hurried across the small field and jumped up next to Carter, spraying his thick pelt with snow.
"See anything new?" He asked, waving his tail expectantly. The larger tom shook his head. Teddybear's shoulders drooped.
"Maybe tomorrow." Carter mewed, trying to cheer him up. But the sleek black tom just slumped down onto the fence with a sigh.
"Nothing ever happens around here." He sighed. As if to prove him wrong, a voice rang out from the other side of the twoleg nest.
"That was awesome!" A tom called. Teddybear perked his ears and sat up.
"It was fun, but we could have died." A quieter voice chimed in.
Teddybear raced across the fence as fast as he could with Carter right on his heels. They peered around the side of their nest to see a group of wild cats sitting beside it.
"Well, how else would we get away from the monster?" A siamese tom asked.
"We could have waited for it to drive past." A gray tom grumbled.
"But running in front of it is way more fun." A golden brown tom argued.
"Look at that, Carter! A whole group of cats our age!" Teddybear purred. "They look like clan cats... Let's ask them about the clans!"
"That may not be the best idea." Cater warned, but the black tom had already jumped down from the fence.
"Hello! Are you clan cats?" Teddybear called as he trotted up to them. Carter jumped down after him. A dark ginger she cat stood rooted to the ground in fear as the kittypets approached.
"Yeah, we are. Why do you want to know?" A cream she cat replied, trying to sound friendly.
"Uh... I'm just curious." Teddybear mewed. He turned to Carter for help.
"So, what are your names?" The brown tom asked.
"I'm Flowerkit." A dark brown tom told them. "This is Stonekit, Sproutkit, Goosekit, Smallkit, Foxkit, Milkkit, and-" he was cut off

when he got to the cream colored she cat.
"I can introduce myself." She growled. "I'm Blackkit."
"Blackkit?" Teddybear repeated. "But your pelt isn't black."
"She was named for her soul." Stonekit purred. Foxkit giggled.
"Anyway, we have to get going." Flowerkit announced. "We need to get back today. The clan will be worried." He stood and headed off. The others followed.
"Wait!" Teddybear called after them. "Let us come with you!"
"Teddybear..." Carter grumbled. "We don't know these cats..."
"If your coming with us, then hurry up!" Blackkit called over her shoulder. Teddybear rushed after them. Carter followed more slowly.

Treepaw

Treepaw stood beside Hazelstar and watched as the patrols filed out of the entrance. Frosteye and Reedpaw soon joined them.
'They sure are putting a lot of effort into finding these kits. If all of them are missing, they must have simply went on an adventure or something." Thornbelly grumbled to know one in particular.
Treepaw shook his head slowly. Didn't the warrior see how serious the situation was?
"We will go to MoonClan first. Perhaps they took the kits as payback for Mudpad killing one of their warriors in that border skirmish last moon." Hazelstar decided. Frosteye nodded and they set off. Halfway across the clearing, Breezesnow stopped them.
"Is it really a good idea for both of you to leave?" The gray tom asked, looking concerned.
"Of course. This is for our next generation of warriors. We must find them as soon as possible." Hazelstar explained, heading out of the entrance before Breezesnow could protest again.
At the MoonClan border, they sat and waited for a patrol. Eventually, one showed up. It was lead by a dark brown she cat with purple eyes. Behind her was a dark ginger she cat with a brown chest, a brown she cat with blue-gray stripes, and a black tom with a cream colored face.
"Hello, Hazelstar. Hello, Frosteye. What are you four going here?" The leader of the patrol meowed, eyeing them suspiciously.
"Hello, Brokenfeather." Hazelstar replied, dipping her head to the she cat. "We would like to speak with Pebblestar, if we may."
"I don't see why not." Brokenfeather nodded. "Kinkpool, left side. Littlebright, right side. Thunderdapple, follow behind." She commanded. The warriors fell in place around the FrostClan cats and they lead them across the border and through the pines until, at last, they reached the camp.
"You two, stay out here." Hazelstar told the apprentices. Treepaw and Reedpaw nodded and sat down, looking around the camp with wide eyes.

Foxkit

Foxkit ran along at the back of the group, trying to refrain from bumping into the others as she stared around in wonder.
"The Twolegplace is so beautiful." She whispered in awe.
"It is. That's why I wanted to see it up close." Foxkit jumped at Flowerkit's response, not expecting anyone to have heard her.
"Unfortunately, this will be the only chance we get to see it."
"Why can't we come back?" She asked.
"We have to be loyal to the clan, that's why. We'll be in trouble when we get back. They wont like us as much if we do this twice. I might have been able to get away with it if I had gone alone, but since you all followed me..." He explained. Foxkit's tail drooped as she realized what they had done.
"I'm sorry... It's just... Everyone was following you so I went, too. None of us like being alone, I guess." She told him.
"No, I get it. I expected this. I like having you all with me. Otherwise I wouldn't have left at a time when you were all watching. I think we can both agree that being alone is no fun." He meowed. She nodded and they walked on in silence for a few heartbeats.
"You two done flirting back there?" Sproutkit called. Flowerkit rolled his eyes and Foxkit flattened her ears in embarrassment.
"So, where are we going now? The unclaimed part of the moor? We must be close to it." Goosekit mewed after a few heartbeats of akward silence. They all stopped and sat in a circle on the side of the thunderpath.
"The moor? That's the windy place, right?" Teddybear asked. "I'd like to go there."
"You are going home." Flowerkit meowed pointedly. "We all are."
"Aww, but I wanna explore some more!" The kittypet protested.
"Well, can't you just come with us? Back to the camp? I'm sure you'll like it far more than this place." Smallkit persuaded, placing a paw on the black tom's shoulder. He looked thoughtful for a moment until Carter spoke up.
"I don't think the clans would like that very much. Neither would our twolegs." He pointed out. Teddybear nodded sadly in

agreement. And so, they walked together to the kittypets twoleg nest. There, they said their goodbyes and the kits headed back home.

Riverpaw

Riverpaw watched as the patrols filed out of the camp. He growled as his sister, Reedpaw, trotted happily after her mentor.
"Why don't we get to go?" He groaned to his mentor, Breezesnow.
He shrugged.
"We can hunt, though, since so many warriors left." He suggested.
He looked sad. He must have been upset that he didn't get to search for his kits. Riverpaw nodded, glad to be doing anything at all.

Riverpaw slammed his paws down on a squirrel and looked up to see if Breezesnow had been watching.
"Good work!" The gray tom purred, leaning against a twoleg fence.
Riverpaw paused and looked around in surprise. He had chased the squirrel all the way to the edge of Twolegplace. He picked up his catch, ready to head home.
"Hey!"
Breezesnow and Riverpaw both jumped in surprise and looked up to see a sleek black kittypet staring down at them.
"Are you clan cats?" He called. "I'd like to join you."
"No, no, no!" A brown tom called, jumping up beside him. "We are going home." He reminded the black tom, but the look of sheer disappointment that crossed his face silenced the brown tom.
"If you mean to join FrostClan, you must speak with Hazelstar. Please, wait here. We will come and find you when she returns to camp." Breezesnow told the cat. He sat down happily, looking as if he were ready to wait there through the heaviest snow storm if it meant joining them. Silently, the two of them walked back to the camp, picking up their other catches along the way.
By the time they got to the camp, all but one of the patrols had returned. Hazelstar was sitting in the clearing, looking annoyed. There was still no sign of the kits.
"It must have been MoonClan that took them. No other clan has an reason to. But there is still the possibility that they left on their own..." She was grumbling as they approached.
"Hazelstar? May I speak with you?"
"Yes. Of course." She replied, looking focused.

"We found a couple of kittypets while we were hunting. One of them asked if he could join us. He looked about the same age as Emberfern's litter." Breezesnow told her.
"Alright. Go get him. And see if his friend will join, too." She told him. Breezesnow and Riverpaw exchanged a surprised look. Was she wanting to recruit more younger cats because she didn't believe the kits would return? They quickly left the camp to find the two kittypets.
"You're back! That was quick." The to purred when they found him. He was alone.
"Were is your friend?" Riverpaw asked.
"Carter? He went home. He doesn't seem to like the forest." The black tom mewed sadly.
"Okay, well... Follow us, then." The tom leaped down from the fence and bounced up to them.
"You won't have to ask Hazelstar. She already decided that you can join us." Breezesnow told him.
"What is your name?" Riverpaw asked.
"Teddybear." He told him. Riverpaw blinked in surprise. What an odd name!
When they got back to the camp, they saw that the last patrol had returned. Breezesnow dashed forward at top speed when he saw his kits gathered beside her. He nuzzled each of them happily and Riverpaw purred as he watched.
"And silly Flowerkit thought they'd get lectured when they got back! But look how happy everyone is!" Teddybear purred.
Riverpaw glanced at him in surprise.
"You know Flowerkit?"
"I know all the kits! We explored Twolegplace together." He told him.
"So that's where they went!" They both looked up in surprise when they realized that Hazelstar had overheard them. But she didn't look upset. "You must be our new recruit."
"That's me! I'm Teddybear." He told her. He stuck out his tail. She wrapped hers around it, giving it a shake before stepping away.
"We will start your training right away. And perhaps you will be more comfortable training with some cats you know. Wait here." She purred, trotting over to small frozen puddle she stood on during meetings.
"Cats of FrostClan, gather here for a clan meeting!" She called. Once

they had gathered, she continued.
"Kits, please come forward. You too, Teddybear." The whole clan stared in surprise as the kittypet ran forward, including the kits.
"Kits, it was rather brave of you to go off like that. Though you did scare the clan, I feel no punishment is needed." Some cats cheered in agreement while others gasped in disbelief, though most were too busy wondering about Teddybear to notice that she had spoken.
"Though you could have chosen a better day!" She purred in amusement. "Two of you nearly missed your own ceremony!"
That got the clans attention.
"Flowerkit, Stonekit, and Teddybear, stay here. The rest of you may go back to the nursery." She ordered. Once the others had backed away, she continued. Riverpaw purred, glad that he would be training with the kittypet.
"Flowerkit, please step forward." She meowed. He obeyed, his head held high.
"From this moment on, until you receive your warrior name, you shall be known as Flowerpaw. Russetblaze, you will be his mentor. May you pass down all you know to your apprentice." Flowerpaw's eyes sparkled with pride as he touched noses with the light brown tom. Foxkit and the others watched happily from the nursery entrance.
"Stonekit, please step forward." He moved a bit more quickly than Flowerpaw had. "From this momenton, until you receive your warrior name, you shall be known as Stonepaw. Your mentor will be Tinyeyes. May she pass down all she knows to you." Stonepaw tried desperately to contain his excitement as they touched noses.
"Teddybear, please step forward." The whole clan stared with curiosity as the kittypet padded forward. "It was very brave of you to ask to join us. From this moment forward, until you receive your warrior name, you shall be known as Bearpaw." The black tom perked his ears in excitement as he heard his new name. Hazelstar carefully scanned the crowd until her eyes landed on Shadowpelt. She had done well watching the camp that day and now seemed to be watching the tom excitedly. Reading her gaze, Hazelstar decided to grant the wish that was running through the classic tabby's head.
"Shadowpelt, you will be his mentor." She stood slowly, staring at the leader in surprise before happily trotting forward. "May you do well in teaching him the ways of the clan."
"Flowerpaw!"

"Stonepaw!"
"Bearpaw!"
"We aren't finished yet!" Hazelstar called once the cheering had gone down. "Cedarpaw, Wetpaw, Treepaw, please step forward."
The three cats stood in a row in front of her, clearly surprised. "You finished your assessments last sunrise. It is time you became warriors."
"I, Hazelstar, leader of FrostClan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down upon these apprentices. They have trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code, and I commend them to you as a warrior in their turn. Cedarpaw, Wetpaw, Treepaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code, and protect and defend this Clan, even at the cost of your lives?"
"I do."
"... I do."
"I do."
"Then by the powers of SunClan, I give you your warrior names. Cedarpaw, from this moment on you shall be known as Cedarwish. SunClan honors your faith and determination and we welcome you as a full warrior of FrostClan."
"Cedarwish! Cedarwish! Cedarwish!"
"Wetpaw, from this moment on you will be known as Wetwave. SunClan honors your patience and honesty and we welcome you as a full warrior of FrostClan."
"Wetwave! Wetwave! Wetwave!"
"Treepaw, from this moment on you will be known as Treebird. SunClan honors your intelligence and enthusiasm and we welcome you as a full warrior of FrostClan."
"Treebird! Treebird! Treebird!"
Once the cheering had died down, Riverpaw trotted over to the new apprentices.
"Congratulations! You have a lot of new things to look forward to now. Just a tip, try not to stay up to late tonight. You'll be on dawn patrol tomorrow!"

Characters

IceClan
Leader
Crowstar- dark brown tom with golden-brown cheeks
Deputy
Waterspots- black tom with pale blue eyes (apprentice- Ripplepaw)
Medicine Cats
Sorrelwing- brown she cat with a gray belly
Bluefire- silver ticked tabby she cat
Warriors
Tallsplash- ginger she cat with dark yellow eyes
Flowerbriar- light brown she cat with ginger paws
Sootface- blue-gray tom with pale blue eyes (apprentice- Graypaw)
Mouseflight- golden brown tabby tom
Tawnybee- dark gray she cat with a dark ginger chest
Specklecloud- dark ginger spotted tabby tom
Morningfang- light ginger she cat with red eyes
Pricklesplash- white tom (apprentice- Applepaw)
Sparrowtalon- tortoiseshell she cat
Robinmist- blue-gray tom
Clawtail- dark gray she cat with brown ears
Clouddapple- dark ginger she cat with light green eyes (apprentice- Fuzzypaw)
Foxfrost- cream tom with a gloden-brown neck
Fernwhisker- tortoiseshell ticked tabby she cat
Thrushburr- blue-gray tom with dark gray patches
Weaselheart- gray tom with a white nose (apprentice- Troutpaw)
Milkshade- light ginger she cat with amber eyes
Runningrabbit- brown tom with golden brown ears
Dustspring- golden brown tom with midnight blue eyes
Apprentices
Ripplepaw- dark gray spotted tabby tom
Graypaw- light gray tom with a light brown tail tip
Applepaw- dark gray tom with a brown nose
Fuzzypaw- dark ginger tom with dark yellow eyes
Troutpaw- blue-gray she cat with cream colored ears

Queens
Yellowstripe- white classic tabby she cat (mate- Mouseflight) - two kits
Robinkit- brown she cat with amber eyes
Gorgekit- golden-brown tom, missing his claws
Leaffall- ginger tabby she cat with green eyes (mate- Waterspots)- two kits
Pinekit- dark ginger she cat with a black nose
Stripekit- white she cat with black patches and light ginger patches with faint stripes
Elders
Brackenwillow- golden brown tom with amber eyes
Brightpool- gray spotted tabby she cat with a scar across her left eye
Cinderstorm- ginger mackerel tabby she cat with dark brown paws

CloudClan
Leader
Longstar- ginger she cat with dark brown paws
Deputy
Blazefeather- light brown she cat with a ginger tail tip
Medicine Cats
Willowflower- gray tom with a light ginger muzzle
Bouncebright- white tom with a gray face
Warriors
Gooseshine- golden brown she cat with a gray chest
Seedclaw- light ginger tom with silver ears
Leopardfur- blue-gray tom with a brown nose (apprentice- Pinepaw)
Poppynose- tortoiseshell she cat
Cedarscar- blue-gray ticked tabby she cat
Silverthroat- calico tom
Ashstep- golden brown she cat with dark green eyes
Hazewind- white she cat with midnight blue eyes
Tigerspot- gray she cat with red eyes
Brambleflake- light brown tom with dark gray stripes
Nightberry- ginger she cat
Firesky- golden brown she cat
Mistspirit- black tom with a brown nose and light gray stripes
Smokestrike- dark gray classic tabby she cat
Onebird- gray tom with hazel eyes

Mintdust- light gray tom with soft yellow eyes
Apprentices
Pinepaw- dark ginger tom with light ginger patches
Queens
Goldenhawk- dark brown she cat with one missing claw (mate- Brambleflake)- one kit
Barkkit- brown she cat with a light gray tail tip
Elders
Toadtooth- light ginger classic tabby tom
Spiderspots- silver tom with light green eyes
Darkbreeze- calico she cat

Characters 2

FrostClan
Leader
Hazelstar- cream she cat with a scar over her left eye
Deputy
Frosteye- dark gray she cat with a scar on her right flank (apprentice- Reedpaw)
Medicine cats
Featherstem- gray she cat
Dapplewhisper- dark ginger mackerel tabby she cat
Warriors
Shadowpelt- white classic tabby she cat (apprentice- Bearpaw)
Sageleap- blue-gray spotted tabby she cat
Thornbelly- ginger tom with hazel eyes
Gorseflower- blue-gray tom with dark yellow eyes
Mudpad- golden brown she cat with amber eyes
Snowsong- dark gray tom with light ginger patches
Emberfern- white she cat with dark brown eyes
Breezesnow- gray tom with golden brown paws (apprentice- Riverpaw)
Rainspeck- brown she cat with a golden brown muzzle
Redtuft- dark brown tom with a white nose and black paws
Sandlight- dark brown she cat with a black nose
Cloverfoot- brown spotted tabby tom
Russetblaze- light brown tom with bright blue eyes (apprentice- Flowerpaw)
Tinyeyes- golden brown she cat with pale blue eyes (apprentice- Stonepaw)
Buzzarddrop- dark ginger tom with red eyes
Brownskip- light brown tom with a scar on his left cheek
Cedarwish- ginger tom with light brown paws
Wetwave- silver she cat with a white nose
Treebird- ginger mackerel tabby tom
Apprentices
Riverpaw- calico tom
Reedpaw- black she cat with light green eyes

Stonepaw- lanky siamese tom with wide ice blue eyes and flecks of gray and black
Flowerpaw- dark brown tom with dark brown eyes
Bearpaw- young, sleek, black tom
Queens
Echomask- brown she cat with white patches (mate- Breezesnow)- three kits
Sproutkit- long haired golden brown tom
Smallkit- small brown tom with blue-green eyes
Goosekit- gray tom with brown paws
Snakeflame- dark cream she cat (mate- Buzzarddrop)- two kits
Foxkit- dark ginger she cat with hazel eyes
Blackkit- dark cream colored she cat with brown eyes
Halfstream- black she cat with a cream colored muzzle (mate- Cloverfoot)- one kit
Milkkit- brown tom
Elders
Volewatcher- cream tom with a dark brown face
Rockjaw- black tom with a brown nose
Cherrypuddle- black she cat
Stumpyfall- brown tom with soft yellow eyes
Blackleaf- silver tom with amber eyes

MoonClan
Leader
Pebblestar- black she cat with gray patches
Deputy
Swiftbright- gray tom with a scar on his left flank
Medicine cats
Beechbranch- ginger tom (apprentice- Shadepaw)
Heatherwater- dark brown she cat with a silver neck
Warriors
Thunderdapple- black tom with a cream colored face
Sharpsplash- cream tom with a dark brown chest
Sunstripe- black she cat with a white nose
Brokenfeather- dark brown she cat with purple eyes
Brindlewing- brown she cat with dark green eyes
Willowbriar- silver she cat with dark yellow eyes
Owlflower- black she cat with amber eyes
Patchwillow- dark ginger she cat with one bright blue eye and one

hazel eye
Littlebright- brown she cat with blue-gray stripes
Ratfire- gray tom with three missing claws
Molefrost- brown tom with light brown paws
Kinkpool- dark ginger she cat with a brown chest
Mothshine- ginger mackerel tabby tom
Stonestorm- cream classic tabby tom
Apprentices
Shadepaw- light gray she cat
Queens
Shortnose- dark brown she cat with a dark gray tail tip (mate-Molefrost)- four kits
Raggedkit- light brown tabby she cat
Hollykit- light brown tom with light gray paws
Fawnkit- brown tom with a silver tail tip
Rowankit- light brown tom with gray ears
Elders
Splashflight- gray tom with a ginger muzzle
Windhawk- light brown she cat with a pink nose
Scorchwind- tortoiseshell she cat
Jaggedblaze- golden brown she cat with soft yellow eyes

Kittypets
Carter- young, thick-furred brown tom with a pink collar
Willy- young siamese tom with a brown collar
Vine- black tom with a brown collar
Rosie- white she cat with small patches of various shades of brown and gray, one yellow eye and one blue eye and a brown collar
Minna- calico she cat with a maroon collar
Bess- calico she cat with a black collar
Nip- busy tailed gray she cat with bright green eyes and a teal collar
Bell- light gray she cat with orange eyes and an orange collar.

Rowankit

Rowankit sat and watched as Hazelstar exited the MoonClan camp. He flicked his gray ears in curiosity, but knew it wasn't his place to know why she had been visiting.
"Hey, Rownkit!" Shadepaw called, running toward him. "I'm going to gather herbs with Beechbranch." She told him. "Be good while I'm gone!"
Rowankit nodded subtly and watched as she ran off. Once she was gone, he sulked off to curl up in the damp corner of the nursery where he slept. His littermates and mother had given up on him. Pebblestar had, too. No one ever bothered to talk to him. They saw it as a waste of time. No one liked him at all. No one but Shadepaw. The light gray she cat was his only friend in the world.
Finding that he couldn't fall asleep, Rowankit trotted outside to watch his littermates play fight. He didn't know how to play fight. Shadepaw had tried to teach him, but it was too difficult because she was twice his size. Everyone was bigger than him, even his littermates.
"Got you!" Raggedkit called, leaping forward and slamming her paws down on Shortnose's tail.
"Hey, quit it! Go play with your brothers!" She scolded before turning back to her conversation with Ratfire. Rowankit bristled as he realized that she had been spending more time with him than Molefrost.
He watched his littermates for a bit more before turning away. No one noticed as he slipped through the camp entrance. Either that or no one cared to stop him. Picking his way through the frozen marsh, he patiently followed Shadepaw's scent trail. He pushed his way through one final bush and there she was. She was sitting in a small clearing, counting bright orange flowers.
He crawled up behind her silently and, when he was close enough, leaped onto her back. She let out a squeak of surprise and shook herself so hard that it sent him flying. He let out a wheeze of pain as he hit the ground. Realizing what she had done, Shadepaw ran forward and crouched beside him.
"I'm so sorry, Rowankit! I didn't expect to see you out here

because..." She stepped back, gasping in shock. "Because kits aren't supposed to leave camp!"
Rowankit stared at her, wanting to explain to her that the rules don't apply to kits whose existence isn't acknowledged, but he just responded with a simple shrug.
"You're family will get scared if you go missing like that! C'mon, let's get you back to camp." She reached down to grab his scruff, but he pushed her jaws away. She stared down at him and he shook his head slowly, looking down with his sad, wide, deep blue eyes. Then she understood.
"I know you think they don't care about you, but they do! They must, because... Because..." She broke off with a sigh. "I'm sorry. I can't lie to you. But I will tell you one truth. I hate this clan. The way they treat me... The way they treat each other... And, above all, the way they treat you. None of them are good cats. Not even Beechbranch." She sat down, looking more downcast than ever.
Suddenly, Rowankit had an idea. He prodded her with a paw and when she looked up, he pointed out toward the moor. Shadepaw stared for a bit, confused. Then, finally, she understood.
"Right. Great idea, Rowankit! We will use these as an offering!" She purred, picking up the herbs she had gathered. She sat still for a moment while Rowankit climbed onto her shoulders. He reached forward and batted at the herbs. Understanding, she turned her head to look behind her and he grabbed the herbs clinging to them tightly so he didn't drop any.
"Yet another good idea!" Shadepaw purred. Rowankit snuggled deeper into her warm fur, feeling her purrs rumble through him.
"Now that I'm not carrying those in my mouth, we can talk to eachother! Err... Well... I can talk to you." She added akwardly as he gave a small growl.
And with that, they set off to join CloudClan.
Shadepaw and Rowankit had nearly reached the border when the bushes rustled and Molefrost stepped out. "What are you doing?" He asked. Not a hint of emotion showed on his face or in his voice. A growl started in Rowankit's throat, signaling that he wanted to get going.
"We're leaving. But that doesn't matter to you, does it?" Shadepaw hissed.
"That's a shame. You were a good learner. You could have been a great medicine cat some day." Rowankit clung more tightly to

Shadepaw's back, clearly bothered that his father hadn't acknowledged him. Again.
"I will be a great medicine cat, just not a MoonClan medicine cat. No MoonClan cat has the right to consider themselves great. They are all selfish! That's why Rowankit and I don't belong here. We belong in CloudClan, were no cat is mistreated or neglected!" Shadepaw hissed, barely a whisker length from Molefrost's face. "Mark my words, you miserable mongrel. By the time your in the elders den, left clinging to what little pathetic life you have left, you will be begging for forgiveness from the mighty CloudClan leader, Rowanstar, and his trusted medicine cat, me!"
Before Molefrost could utter another word, Shadepaw whisked around and strutted away, head held high. Rowankit turned to face his father as he watched them go, frozen in shock. He uttered a just barely audible, voiceless, breathy, squeak of triumph as Molefrost stormed away in anger.

Carter

Carter sat alone is his house. His housefolk had gone on a trip and Teddybear had still not given up on living in the clans. Carter had considered joining them, too, but found that he liked Twolegplace much better than any forest. Finally tiered of laying around, he got up headed outside to explore the Twolegplace.
First, he decided to visit an old friend of his. After walking for a short while, he jumped up on a fence and called down to the calico she cat below him.
"Hey, Bess!"
"Ah, Carter! Long time, no see!" She called back. She was laying on a large rock that had been brushed clear of snow. Carter dropped down into the garden and leaped up beside Bess, finding the rock relatively warm.
"How has Minna been?" Carter asked, sprawling out on top of the rock.
"She's been staying inside a lot recently, which worries me a bit. She won't give me any reasons, though." Bess told him. "And Teddybear?"
"He's... Gone." He muttered, suddenly hit with a pang of sadness.
"Gone? You mean, he-?"
"No, no. He just... Went to join a clan."
"A clan?" She gasped. "But clan cats are savages!"
"Well, he didn't think so. I told him to come back if they weren't treating him how he thought they would or if he didn't like it anymore, so I'm sure he will be back soon." Carter told Bess, hoping it was true.
"Yes, I'm sure he will." Bess nodded. A long silence followed and after a while, Carter stood.
"I heard Vine had to go to the vet. I'd like to go check on him. I'll see you later." Carter announced before jumping back onto the fence. He traveled on for a bit until he reached the house he was looking for.
"Vine!" Carter called, jumping down into the garden. It wasn't long before he saw the black kittypet laying between a mainly white, spotted she cat and a siamese tom.

"Greetings. What brings you here?" The siamese purred.
"I just wanted to check on Vine. How is he doing?" The brown tom asked, noticing that the black tom was asleep.
"He's doing well. We are, too. What about you and Teddybear?" The mainly white she cat asked.
"Well... Teddybear has gone to join a clan." He told them. Willy perked his ears.
"A clan? Like the ones with wild cats? Oh, I've always wanted to meet a wild cat!" The siamese purred. Rosie cuffed his ear.
"Well, I'm very sorry about that. I hope he returns soon." She meowed sympathetically. Unnerved by the fact that his friend had been mentioned again, Carter headed back home.

Rowankit

Rowankit rode along on Shadepaw's back for a while, but proved to be too heavy for her. She let him slide down to the ground to walk along beside her. However, he was still in charge of the herbs. They traveled along the border between FrostClan and IceClan until a FrostClan patrol passed. Thornbelly was in the lead, followed by Gorseflower, Cloverfoot and Treebird.
"What are you two doing here?" Thornbelly hissed.
"I'm a medicine cat. I can cross borders." Shadepaw retorted.
"But if you're going to the moon-lake, it's the other way. And that doesn't explain why you have a kit with you." Gorseflower countered. Unsure of how to respond, Shadepaw grabbed Rowankit's scruff and took off along the border. Rowankit wanted to cry out in pain as branches smashed into him and he bounced against Shadepaw's legs. Even though he was smaller than her, they were too close in age for her to properly carry him. He sighed in relief through his mouthful of herbs as they broke out of the woods and collapsed on the moor. Glancing back, he saw that the patrol had not followed them.
"Let me hold the herbs now, okay?" Shadepaw offered as she watched Rowankit struggle to stand against the roaring wind. Careful not to let them get blown away, he passed them to her. They traveled along for a bit until a rabbit darted past them. Shadepaw shoved the herbs into a nearby dip in the ground and took off after it.
"Help me! Go at it from the other side!" She called. Rowankit quickly followed her orders. When the rabbit saw him, it turned directly into Shadepaw's claws. She killed it and they both sat, panting and staring down at the rabbit in astonishment. Neither of them knew anything about hunting but they had still caught a rabbit.
"Great job, Rowankit!" She purred, grabbing hold off the rabbit and setting off again. "Now we have another offering! They'll have to except us!"
Unsure if he believed that statement, he followed after her more slowly. Before he knew it they had made it to the CloudClan camp.

"I don't think they will like it if we just walk into their camp. What do you think we should do?" She asked him after she set down the rabbit. Rowankit lifted a paw and set it back down in the ground. Then, he stretched open his jaws and closed them again.
"Good idea once again!" Shadepaw purred. "Stay here and call to them through the entrance."
Rowankit arranged the rabbit more neatly while she cleared her throat. "Longstar!"
After a few heartbeats passed, two figures exited the camp. It was Longstar and Blazefeather. They stood and stared at the two for a bit before speaking.
"Who are you and why are you here?" Longstar asked, a hint of a growl in her voice.
"I am Shadepaw and this is Rowankit. Neither of us feel that MoonClan is our home. I do not approve of their morals and they make Rowankit feel unwelcome every moment of every day. We thought that maybe we would be more comfortable and more welcome here. See, we even brought offerings. We caught this rabbit to feed some of your warriors and we brought herbs to- Ah!" She broke off as she realized what she had done. "I left the herbs behind when we caught the rabbit! Hold on, I'll go get them." She darted off toward were she had left them and Rowankit stared after her. He felt very uncomfortable when Shadepaw wasn't at his side. He cautiously turned back to Longstar and Blazefeather.
"So, why do you feel unwelcome in MoonClan?" Blazefeather asked.
Rowankit froze. Would she understand his signals as well as Shadepaw could? Cautiously, he lifted a paw and tapped his muzzle.
"U-um... I said why do you feel unwelcome in MoonClan?" She repeated. Rowankit wanted to cry out in frustration. Instead, he waited in silence for Shadepaw to return.
"I found them!" She called through a mouthful of various herbs.
"Oh, wow. Some of these are herbs I've never even seen before!" Longstar mewed, pawing at the plants. However, Blazefeather had something else on her mind.
"Your friend is rather... Shy." She told Shadepaw.
"Huh? How so?" She asked.
"He hasn't said a word to me this whole time." Shadepaw giggled when Blazefeather told her this.
"Well, what did you say to him?"

"I just asked him why he felt uncomfortable in MoonClan."
"And did he make any motions?"
"Well... He scratched his muzzle or something."
"Did he scratch it or just touch it?"
"I guess he just touched it. Why?"
"Ah, yes! He was telling you that he can't speak!" She told them simply. They both stared at her as she said this and Rowankit scooted closer to her. "He felt unwelcome in the clan because everyone had given up on him since he can't speak. They gave up on me, too. I wanted to be a warrior but they said I can't be a warrior because I can't track prey or sense intruders. I can't smell."

Troutpaw

Troutpaw leaped at Fuzzypaw, knocking him off balance. The tom rolled over and jumped up, running back toward her. She dodged his attack and jammed her paws into his side. He rolled again and she leaped on top of him, kicking at his belly with sheathed claws.
"Well done, Troutpaw!" Weaselheart called. She backed away from her brother to let him catch his breath. Once he was on his paws again, she turned to her mentor.
"Can we learn something new now?" She called. Clouddapple shook her head.
"We can't move on until Fuzzypaw gets it right. Try again." She told them. Troutpaw sighed and got into position, briefly wondering how long it took Ripplepaw to get it right. She was still surprised the idiot had passed his assessment. He and his brother, Graypaw, would be getting there warrior names soon.
They practiced for a bit more until everyone decided it was time to get something to eat. Fuzzypaw, of course, still could not master the move.
"Wanna share something with me?" The ginger tom asked as they approached the fresh kill pile.
"Of course... Not!" She growled. "I'm not eating with anyone who is too stupid to correctly preform the simplest battle move even once!" She hissed, grabbing a pigeon and trotting away. Even if he was her brother, she couldn't be seen with such an idiot. She purred inwardly at the thought of how much better than her brothers she was. At hunting, tracking, fighting, everything. She would be the best warrior ever. There was nothing stopping her.
They next day was a naming ceremony. Troutpaw didn't watch, of course. Why should she care about the new apprentices? They'd never be a threat to her, anyway. She had only been training for three moons and was already better at fighting than her own mentor. Through the walls of her den as she tried to sleep, she heard that Robinpaw's mentor was Morningfang and Gorgepaw's mentor was Sorrelwing.
Of course Gorgepaw is going to be a medicine cat, she thought. You can't be a warrior if you don't have claws.

Satisfied that she still had no serious competition, Troutpaw drifted off to sleep.

Rowankit

Rowankit sat just inside the entrance of the CloudClan camp he looked around shyly. He wished he could press himself into Shadepaw's fur, but she had gone to meet Willowflower and Bouncebright. She had told him to stay put and so he did, but they whole clan was watching him. It got worse when they started asking questions.
"Hello there. My name is Ashstep. What do you think of your new camp?" A golden brown she cat asked. He frantically searched his mind for his symbol for 'good' and 'yes' to show that he liked the camp. He was so nervous that he had forgotten it. Finally remembering, he nodded. The she cat looked confused and he flattened his ears in frustration.
"That wasn't a yes or no question..." She mumbled.
"So, what is your name?" A light ginger classic tabby tom asked. Rowankit froze. He didn't know any symbols that would clearly show what his name was. Why hadn't anyone told these cats that he he can't speak? Unsure what to do, he tapped his muzzle with one paw.
"Eh? Is Muzzlekit your name?" The elderly tom asked. Rowankit shook his head vigorously. "No? Then what is it?"
Scared and unsure how to respond, he flopped onto the ground and covered his face with his paws, hoping that he'd go away.
"What's wrong, little kit?" Ashstep asked. Rowankit removed one paw from his face and used it to point at the tom. "I think he wants you to go away, Toadtooth." She whispered.
"No, that can't be it. Maybe he wants to get to know me better." The tom countered. With that, Rowankit stood and pelted into the medicine den. As soon as he spotted Shadepaw, he ran to her snuggled into her soft fur.
"Rowankit, I'm busy!" She whispered as the medicine cats stared down at him. Scared that she'd make him go away, he pointed a paw at the group of cats staring at him through the entrance while shaking his head vigorously. She sighed. "Excuse me for a moment." she meowed to the medicine cats before stepping out of the medicine den. Rowankit stayed right beside her.

"I am very sorry, but Rowankit is a bit tiered from our journey. He would like to rest now and answer your questions later." She dipped her head to the cats and nudged Rowankit toward the nursery before heading back to the medicine den. Rowankit wanted to follow her, but reluctantly headed into nursery were he curled up in the corner as he was used to doing.
"Is that where they made you sleep in MoonClan?" A dark brown she cat asked. Rowankit nodded. "Well, I won't have that. You can join Barkkit and I in our nest from now on. I'm Goldenhawk." She told him, purring. Overjoyed, Rowankit climbed into the nest, a dry and breathy purr rumbling in his throat.

Grayshadow

Grayshadow stood among the twelve cats selected to attend the gathering. The gathering took place at a clearing between CloudClan, FrostClan, and IceClan, and each clan selected twelve cats to attend each one. This would be his first gathering as a warrior. Crowstar and Waterspots headed off toward the gathering place with Sorrelwing, Gorgepaw, Mouseflight, Morningfang, Robinpaw, Clawtail, Thrushburr, Grayshadow, Pricklesplash, and Applepaw following behind.
Once they reached the clearing, Grayshadow saw that they were the last clan to arrive. The leaders began there speeches at moonhigh, so there was still time left to talk with other warriors before the gathering officially began.
"Hey, Graypaw!" Tigerspot called from across the clearing.
"It's Grayshadow now." He purred when he reached the small group Tigerspot was sitting with.
"Ah, cool!" Blackpaw purred.
"Who are you?" Grayshadow asked, staring down at the cream colored she cat.
"I'm Blackpaw from FrostClan." She told him. "I was only apprenticed a few days ago. This is my first gathering."
"Well, you'll like it. It's pretty cool that you made it here so soon. My brother and I were given our warrior names a few days ago and only I got to come. He's pretty upset but I'm sure he'll be at the next one." Grayshadow told her. Just then, Hazelstar stepped forward on the boulder were the leaders stood.
"Things have gone well in our clan. We have had good hunting and the rouge we were having issues with has been chased away. We have some new warriors, too. Cedarwish, Wetwave, and Treebird. We also have some new apprentices. Flowerpaw, Stonepaw, Bearpaw, Foxpaw, and Blackpaw."
Blackpaw straightened beside Grayshadow as her name was called. She shared a proud glance with a ginger she cat who was sitting beside the medicine cats. Pebblestar was next.
"Our clan has been hunting well, too. We also have some new apprentices. Raggedpaw, Hollypaw, and Fawnpaw. Sadly, we have

lost Shadepaw and Rowankit. No one is sure of were they are, but it is not of our concern." A gray she cat sitting with the medicine cats bristled at the comment, pulling a smaller brown tom closer to them.
Isn't that she cat Shadepaw? Grayshadow thought. But if she's here, why did Pebblestar say she's missing? And is that Rowankit sitting beside her? Why is a kit at a gathering?
"They are better off with us." Longstar called calmly to Pebblestar. Pebblestar turned to her, bristling. Hoping to distract them before a fight broke out, Crowstar stepped forward.
"And we have two new warriors. Grayshadow and Rippleberry. That is all." He leaped down and hurried his clan away. The other leaders did the same.

Blackpaw

Blackpaw sat in the clearing, waiting for Smallpaw and Foxpaw to join her. Smallpaw and his brothers had been apprenticed a few sunrises after the gathering and she and Smallpaw had just been assigned the task of guarding Foxpaw while she gathered herbs.
"We have to go to the MoonClan border." Foxpaw announced once the three had gathered. "I need Horsetail which grows in marshy areas."
"Okay but we need to be careful. MoonClan can get hostile." Blackpaw warned.
"We know that!" Smallpaw snorted as he led the way out of the camp. "Is that it?" He asked once they reached the border. He was pointing at a shrub with black berries and purple, bell shaped flowers. He reached a paw forward to pluck off a few berries.
"Definitely not! That's Nightshade!" Foxpaw hissed, swatting his paw away. "What in the name of SunClan made you think that?"
"I knew it was Nightshade. I just wanted to see if you'd stop me from eating it." He told her simply.
"Maybe you should have let him eat it." Blackpaw growled as she trotted past them. Eventually they found some actual Horsetail and began gathering it. Soon enough a MoonClan patrol passed by. The cat in the lead, Kinkpool, signaled for the patrol to stop.
"You!" She called. Foxpaw glanced up in alarm when she realized that the dark ginger she cat was staring right at her. "You are Foxpaw, right? The new FrostClan medicine cat."
Foxpaw nodded and the three apprentices watched in confusion as the patrol simply walked away.

Blackpaw was curled up in the crowded apprentice's den, trying to drown out the whispers of the other apprentices. Suddenly, Shadowpelt, who was guarding the camp, rushed into the clearing.
"MoonClan!" She cried. "MoonClan is invading!"
In an instant, the clearing was flooded with cats from both clans. Blackpaw burst out of the den, launching herself at Brindlewing. She dug her claws into the brown she cat's shoulders. Brindlewing dropped to the ground and rolled over, crushing the apprentice

beneath her. Blackpaw kicked and kicked but Brindlewing wouldn't budge. Her nose full of the brown warriors fur, Blackpaw fought for air until, at last, Brindlewing's body was tossed aside. Blackpaw stared up at Riverpaw as he fought to keep Brindlewing away from her.
"Thanks!" She panted, leaping up to join him. They clawed and bit and hissed at kicked until Brindlewing finally gave up. The two apprentices yowled and triumph as she ran. Riverpaw darted off to help Frosteye fight off Pebblestar and Fawnpaw. Blackpaw looked around for a bit and spotted Stonepaw tussling with Mothshine. He looked as if he was winning so Blackpaw turned and headed for Owlflower. Blackpaw tackled Owlflower, pinning her to the floor by her shoulders.
"Why are you here?" Blackpaw spat. "What do you want from us?"
As if to answer her question, a yowl rang out across the clearing.
"Head for the medicine den!" Pebblestar called. Terrified, Blackpaw jumped away from Owlflower and raced across the clearing. More than half of the MoonClan warriors that had invaded were forcing themselves through the entrance. But to Blackpaw's horror, they did not emerge with herbs in their jaws.
"Help me!" Foxpaw squealed, swinging in the jaws of Patchwillow. She was batting the air weakly, unable to land any blows on dark ginger she cat. In a matter of heartbeats, all the apprentices of FrostClan were charging forward to save her. But before they were close enough, the other MoonClan warriors cut off their path.
"Foxpaw!" Blackpaw wailed, trying desperately to break through the line of warriors. But before she knew it, her sister had been shoved through the entrance. With no hesitation, Blackpaw shot forward. Flowerpaw joined her and soon nearly the whole clan was chasing the MoonClan invaders. But Hazelstar called for the clan to stop once they reached the border. Furious, Blackpaw turned on her.
"You can't just let them take her!" She hissed. "We have to get her back!"
"And we will. But we will try to get her back without resorting to violence."
Still fuming, Blackpaw stamped back to the camp where she stopped short. Her anger melted into dismay. There, laying in a circle of red snow, was the lifeless body of Reedpaw.

Pinepaw

Pinepaw watched as Rowankit batted a ball of moss toward Barkkit. The two continued to play with Shadepaw watching and cheering Rowankit on. Pinepaw was supposed to be cheering for Barkkit, but he couldn't be bothered. Why should he cheer for a cat who so easily replaced her sister with a MoonClan cat?
"Hey, Pinepaw, are you okay?" Bouncebright asked.
"Perfectly fine." He growled. Barkkit stopped playing and turned to see what was going on.
"C'mon now. I can tell that you're not. What's on your mind? You can tell me." Bouncebright reasoned.
"How as everyone forgotten about Pouncewing so quickly?" Pinepaw yowled. He froze, seeing that his outburst had attracted much attention. Heart overflowing with mixed emotions, he turned and ran.
"Pinepaw!" His mother, Longstar, called as she darted after him. "Please, can we just talk about this?"
Pinepaw stopped and whipped around to face her.
"She was a kit! A *kit!* How can anyone possibly get over the death of a kit so easily?" He cried. He stood there, shaking, as his mother gathered her thoughts.
"Pinepaw... We have all already mourned over her. She knows that she is missed. But we can't dwell on the fact that she is no longer with us. We must be able to move on. Our lives must continue. Her death is a reminder that none of us have forever. How do think she would feel if she saw someone who is able to live spending all there time mourning her instead of living the life that she was not able to live?"
Pinepaw stood rooted to the ground, letting the message settle in. Finally it got to him. **What am I doing? Pouncewing wouldn't want me to behave like this, would she?** He thought, glancing up at the sky. **I'm sorry. I'll live. Not just for me, but for you, too.**

Foxpaw

Before she had time to realize that she had been taken to the MoonClan camp, Foxpaw was shoved into what appeared to be a Medicine Den. She glanced up, terrified, as a gray tom with a scar on his left flank approached her, claws outstretched.it was the deputy, Swiftbright.
"You see those two?" He growled, tilting his head toward the two medicine cats. "You now must listen to everything they say. If you don't, there will be consequences." He snarled. Foxpaw nodded vigerously, still clearly terrified. Sure now that she was to scared to try to escape, Swiftbright sheathed his claws. However, he couldn't be too careful.
"Ratfire, Mothshine, get the twoleg thing." Dipping their heads, the two warriors hurried away. When they returned, they were carrying an item commonly worn by dogs that twolegs kept as pets. It was like a dark purple vine with a loop at both ends. Ratfire held onto the smaller loop while Mothshine tightened the other loop around Foxpaw's neck.
"Aww, look at that. The color suits her well." Mothshine purred as Ratfire and Swiftbright tied the end with the smaller loop around a tree root that arched up through the soil.
The lenght of the device gave Foxpaw just enough room to reach each part of the den and even step outside so that if she stood in just the right position at just the right time of day, she could lay in the sun. But after roughly three sunrises in the MoonClan camp, she learned that the warriors didn't much enjoy seeing her strutted out in the sun during her allotted 'free time'. They'd often kick dirt into her fur and tease her about her eye color, knowing how much she hated cleaning herself and how much she hated it when her hazel eyes were mistaken for brown.
Despite the teasing and the fact that she couldn't see her friends, Foxpaw couldn't find much that she disliked about her situation. She was forced to do work that she would have done anyway. She sorted herbs and treated minor injuries and, if she behaved herself, she was sometimes let outside to collect herbs (with an experienced warrior holding on to the other end of her vine, of course).

All in all, she was okay.
She just desperately wanted to see her friends again.

Shadepaw

Shadepaw stared down at Gooseshine, shaking. This was her first patient since joining CloudClan, and she could not lose her. That could mean losing what little respect she had.
"C'mon, Shadepaw. Let's see if you can figure it out. Don't worry, I'll step in if something goes wrong." Willowflower reassured her.
She has a fever so I could give her Borage Leaves... But I don't want her to start producing milk. We could use Parsley to dry it up... But we are low on Parsley... Best to use Lavender, then.
Shadepaw stood and headed for the tunnel at the back of the den. It lead to a small underground cave full of herbs. She grabbed some Lavender and headed back out. Her mentor purred with approval as she emerged and she flicked her tail happily as she tended to her patient.
She finished and turned to face her mentor proudly. That was when she noticed that he had stopped purring already, but the sound of a purr was still echoing through the den. She turned toward the entrance and saw Rowankit standing there with Longstar beside him. They had been watching her the whole time.
"What's going on?" She asked as she approached them.
"Rowankit has made me put his apprentice ceremony on hold until you finished up in here." Longstar explained, looking amused.
Rowankit stared up at Shadepaw, his blue eyes sparkling.
"Oh!" Shadepaw gasped. "I can't believe I nearly missed it!" She turned toward Willowflower who dipped his head, dismissing her.
"Let's get started, then." Longstar purred, leading the two out into the clearing. Shadepaw sat with her tail curled over her paws at the front of the crowd that had already gathered, feeling as proud as a mother as she watched the ceremony.
"From this day forward, until he has earned his warrior name, this apprentice shall be known as Rowanpaw. Nightberry, you shall be his mentor. May you pass down all you know to your apprentice."
Shadepaw released a sigh of relief when she saw that Nightberry actually seemed proud to be Shadepaw's mentor.
"Rowanpaw! Rowanpaw!" The clan called. Shadepaw stared after Nightberry and Rowanpaw. Jealousy burned in her chest. He had

been out of the camp many times, but this would be the first time he left the camp without her. Her normally cheery mood crushed, Shadepaw headed back to her den to check on Gooseshine.

Characters

IceClan
Leader
Crowstar- dark brown tom with golden-brown cheeks
Deputy
Waterspots- black tom with pale blue eyes
Medicine Cats
Sorrelwing- brown she cat with a gray belly (apprentice- Gorgepaw)
Bluefire- silver ticked tabby she cat
Warriors
Tallsplash- ginger she cat with dark yellow eyes
Flowerbriar- light brown she cat with ginger paws
Sootface- blue-gray tom with pale blue eyes
Mouseflight- golden brown tabby tom
Tawnybee- dark gray she cat with a dark ginger chest
Specklecloud- dark ginger spotted tabby tom
Morningfang- light ginger she cat with red eyes (apprentice- Robinpaw)
Pricklesplash- white tom (apprentice- Applepaw)
Sparrowtalon- tortoiseshell she cat
Robinmist- blue-gray tom
Clawtail- dark gray she cat with brown ears
Clouddapple- dark ginger she cat with light green eyes (apprentice- Fuzzypaw)
Foxfrost- cream tom with a gloden-brown neck
Fernwhisker- tortoiseshell ticked tabby she cat
Thrushburr- blue-gray tom with dark gray patches
Weaselheart- gray tom with a white nose (apprentice- Troutpaw)
Milkshade- light ginger she cat with amber eyes
Runningrabbit- brown tom with golden brown ears
Dustspring- golden brown tom with midnight blue eyes
Grayshadow light gray tom with a light brown tail tip
Rippleberry- dark gray spotted tabby tom
Apprentices
Applepaw- dark gray tom with a brown nose
Fuzzypaw- dark ginger tom with dark yellow eyes

Troutpaw- blue-gray she cat with cream colored ears
Robinpaw- brown she cat with amber eyes
Gorgepaw- golden-brown tom, missing his claws
Queens
Leaffall- ginger tabby she cat with green eyes (mate- Waterspots)- two kits
Pinekit- dark ginger she cat with a black nose
Stripekit- white she cat with black patches and light ginger patches with faint stripes
Elders
Brackenwillow- golden brown tom with amber eyes
Brightpool- gray spotted tabby she cat with a scar across her left eye
Cinderstorm- ginger mackerel tabby she cat with dark brown paws
Yellowstripe- white classic tabby she cat

CloudClan
Leader
Longstar- ginger she cat with dark brown paws
Deputy
Blazefeather- light brown she cat with a ginger tail tip
Medicine Cats
Willowflower- gray tom with a light ginger muzzle (apprentice- Shadepaw)
Bouncebright- white tom with a gray face
Warriors
Gooseshine- golden brown she cat with a gray chest
Seedclaw- light ginger tom with silver ears
Leopardfur- blue-gray tom with a brown nose (apprentice- Pinepaw)
Poppynose- tortoiseshell she cat
Cedarscar- blue-gray ticked tabby she cat
Silverthroat- calico tom
Ashstep- golden brown she cat with dark green eyes
Hazewind- white she cat with midnight blue eyes
Tigerspot- gray she cat with red eyes
Brambleflake- light brown tom with dark gray stripes
Nightberry- ginger she cat (apprentice- Rowanpaw)
Mistspirit- black tom with a brown nose and light gray stripes
Smokestrike- dark gray classic tabby she cat
Onebird- gray tom with hazel eyes

Mintdust- light gray tom with soft yellow eyes
Apprentices
Pinepaw- dark ginger tom with light ginger patches
Shadepaw- light gray she cat
Rowanpaw- light brown tom with gray ears
Queens
Goldenhawk- dark brown she cat with one missing claw (mate- Brambleflake)- one kit
Barkkit- brown she cat with a light gray tail tip
Firesky- golden brown she cat (mate- Mintdust)
Elders
Toadtooth- light ginger classic tabby tom
Spiderspots- silver tom with light green eyes
Darkbreeze- calico she cat

Characters 2

FrostClan
Leader
Hazelstar- cream she cat with a scar over her left eye
Deputy
Frosteye- dark gray she cat with a scar on her right flank
Medicine cats
Featherstem- gray she cat
Dapplewhisper- dark ginger mackerel tabby she cat
Warriors
Snakeflame- dark cream she cat
Echomask- brown she cat with white patches
Shadowpelt- white classic tabby she cat (apprentice- Bearpaw)
Sageleap- blue-gray spotted tabby she cat
Thornbelly- ginger tom with hazel eyes
Gorseflower- blue-gray tom with dark yellow eyes
Mudpad- golden brown she cat with amber eyes
Snowsong- dark gray tom with light ginger patches
Emberfern- white she cat with dark brown eyes
Breezesnow- gray tom with golden brown paws (apprentice- Riverpaw)
Rainspeck- brown she cat with a golden brown muzzle (apprentice- Sproutpaw)
Redtuft- dark brown tom with a white nose and black paws (apprentice- Blackpaw)
Sandlight- dark brown she cat with a black nose (apprentice- Smallpaw)
Cloverfoot- brown spotted tabby tom
Russetblaze- light brown tom with bright blue eyes (apprentice- Flowerpaw)
Tinyeyes- golden brown she cat with pale blue eyes (apprentice- Stonepaw)
Buzzarddrop- dark ginger tom with red eyes
Brownskip- light brown tom with a scar on his left cheek (apprentice- Goosepaw)
Cedarwish- ginger tom with light brown paws

Wetwave- silver she cat with a white nose
Treebird- ginger mackerel tabby tom
Apprentices
Riverpaw- calico tom
Stonepaw- lanky siamese tom with wide ice blue eyes and flecks of gray and black
Flowerpaw- dark brown tom with dark brown eyes
Bearpaw- young, sleek, black tom
Sproutpaw- long haired golden brown tom
Smallpaw- small brown tom with blue-green eyes
Goosepaw- gray tom with brown paws
Blackpaw- dark cream colored she cat with brown eyes
Queens
Halfstream- black she cat with a cream colored muzzle (mate-Cloverfoot)- one kit
Milkkit- brown tom
Elders
Volewatcher- cream tom with a dark brown face
Rockjaw- black tom with a brown nose
Cherrypuddle- black she cat
Stumpyfall- brown tom with soft yellow eyes
Blackleaf- silver tom with amber eyes

MoonClan
Leader
Pebblestar- black she cat with gray patches
Deputy
Swiftbright- gray tom with a scar on his left flank
Medicine cats
Beechbranch- ginger tom
Heatherwater- dark brown she cat with a silver neck
Foxpaw- dark ginger she cat with hazel eyes
Warriors
Thunderdapple- black tom with a cream colored face
Sharpsplash- cream tom with a dark brown chest (apprentice-Fawnpaw)
Sunstripe- black she cat with a white nose
Brokenfeather- dark brown she cat with purple eyes
Brindlewing- brown she cat with dark green eyes (apprentice-Hollypaw)

Willowbriar- silver she cat with dark yellow eyes
Owlflower- black she cat with amber eyes
Shortnose- dark brown she cat with a dark gray tail tip
Patchwillow- dark ginger she cat with one bright blue eye and one hazel eye
Littlebright- brown she cat with blue-gray stripes
Ratfire- gray tom with three missing claws
Molefrost- brown tom with light brown paws
Kinkpool- dark ginger she cat with a brown chest (apprentice- Raggedpaw)
Mothshine- ginger mackerel tabby tom
Stonestorm- cream classic tabby tom
Apprentices
Raggedpaw- light brown tabby she cat
Hollypaw- light brown tom with light gray paws
Fawnpaw- brown tom with a silver tail tip
Elders
Splashflight- gray tom with a ginger muzzle
Windhawk- light brown she cat with a pink nose
Scorchwind- tortoiseshell she cat
Jaggedblaze- golden brown she cat with soft yellow eyes

Kittypets
Carter- young, thick-furred brown tom with a pink collar
Willy- young siamese tom with a brown collar
Vine- black tom with a brown collar
Rosie- white she cat with small patches of various shades of brown and gray, one yellow eye and one blue eye and a brown collar
Minna- calico she cat with a maroon collar
Bess- calico she cat with a black collar
Nip- busy tailed gray she cat with bright green eyes and a teal collar
Bell- light gray she cat with orange eyes and an orange collar.

Rouges
Gemini- light blue-gray tom with mint green eyes

Stonepaw

Stonepaw hopped onto the tree branch beside Smallpaw. He wobbled for a bit before steadying himself. He watched as the MoonClan patrol walked past. The two had a day free of training and had announced that they would spend the day patrolling so as not to be wasting time. But, of course, that was not what they were doing.
"So, what's the plan again?" He asked.
"We surprise attack the patrol, they take us as prisoners, we save Foxpaw and escape in the middle of the night." Smallpaw told him.
"Alright. I'll go for the ginger mackerel tabby. You go for the brown she cat. Jump on three. One... Two... Three!"
They leaped out of the tree, landing squarely on their targets. But the attack didn't go as planned. Within heartbeats the patrol had chased the two away. Smallpaw hissed in annoyance.
"How will we get her back now?"
"I think the bigger issue right now is how we will explain our scratches..." Stonepaw murmured.
"They killed Reedpaw and took Foxpaw! They need to pay! We have to try again." Smallpaw declared.
"Well we can't try again right after our first try." Stonepaw reasoned.
"I know that!" Smallpaw sighed. "Why are we the only ones trying?"
"I don't know about the other apprentices, but the warriors aren't trying because they don't care." Stonepaw growled. He stood and walked stiffly toward the camp, his wounds stinging. Smallpaw stared after him for a moment before following. They had only gone a few tail lengths when they came across a siamese with a brown collar.
"Trespasser!" They hissed. The tom jumped and spun around to face them.
"I'm just passing through!" He explained, looking scared.
"Then get going." Stonepaw growled. The cat nodded and darted off in the direction of IceClan. Stonepaw briefly wondered why a kittypet was heading the opposite direction of Twolegplace, but he shook his head and set off toward camp again with Smallpaw just

behind him.

Hollypaw

Hollypaw sat outside of the apprentices den, glaring at Foxpaw. Her fur looked so neat and shiny. With the twoleg device on her, she looked fully kittypet. It was gross.
Hollypaw sat for a while more, cleaning his light brown fur. Eventually, something interesting happened. Coughing broke out in the warriors den. Foxpaw instinctively ran toward the sound, one to have the twoleg device pull her by the neck so that her paws slipped out from under her and she fell backwards into the snow. Hollypaw laughed and laughed as she pulled herself back up. Moments later, Sunstripe pushed through the entrance of the warriors den. She hurried to the Medicine Den, coughing the whole way. Foxpaw followed her in, looking worried.
Having lost interest, Hollypaw headed off to find one of his siblings or one of the mentors so he could train. He wanted to be able to shred the cats of FrostClan when they came looking for their precious Medicine Cat. I didn't take long for him to find his mentor, Brindlewing. They practiced until the sun began to set and then headed off to their nets.

Hollypaw watched, growling as Scorchwind untied the twoleg device from the tree root. In a matter of five sunrises, Foxpaw had lost three patients. Sunstripe, Splashflight, and Molefrost were now dead because she had failed to treat them correctly and now they were banishing her. Hollypaw set out with Brindlewing, Sharpsplash, and Fawnpaw, escorting Foxpaw to the border. The border not shared with another clan, of course. Once they had left her, trembling, in unclaimed territory, they headed home.

Rippleberry

Rippleberry followed Waterspots, Weaselheart, and Troutpaw as they headed out of the camp. The last patrol had encountered a family of foxes and had sent Robinmist to get help. He was now leading the patrol to where Mouseflight, Clouddapple, and Fuzzypaw were fighting off the three foxes.
When they arrived, Clouddapple was lashing out at a large male fox who had Fuzzypaw in his jaws and was shaking him vigorously. A female fox and its half grown cub had Mouseflight cornered. Troutpaw began attacking the male from the other side and Waterspots leaped onto its back while the rest of the patrol went for the other two. Rippleberry and Mouseflight fought the mother while Waterspots and Robinmist went for the cub.
It took a while, but they eventually weakened the mother. It ran off with its cub following. Fuzzypaw and Clouddapple blocked off the entrance to their den, just to make sure that they left the territory instead of just hiding for a bit. Realizing that it was facing eight cats on its own, the male fox backed away as they all turned on it. But it wasn't about to admit total defeat. Just before it darted away, it reached forward and grabbed the nearest cats.
"Help me!" Troutpaw squealed as the fox sprinted after its family.
"Troutpaw! We'll save you!" Robinmist called to his daughter. He ran forward at top speed. The rest of the patrol followed but had no hope in catching up.
"No... No!" Fuzzypaw yowled as he collapsed onto the ground. Robinmist crouched beside him, looking defeated. No one could run a step further. They had to let her go.

Rippleberry returned to camp, his dark gray tail dragging in the snow.
"How'd it go? Did you get rid of the foxes?" Crowstar asked as they entered the camp. Fuzzypaw raced away, clearly not wanting to hear the answer. As he darted toward the apprentices den, he dragged Applepaw with him. Witnessing her son's behavior, Tallsplash hurried over to her mate.
"What happened? Where is Troutpaw?" She demanded.

"She... She was taken away by the foxes." Robinmist told her.
"Well then why didn't you go after her?" She cried.
"We did, we just... Couldn't catch up." He admitted.
"She's out there, all alone..." Tallsplash whimpered.
"Well, she's not alone..." Robinmist pointed out.
"You're right. She with foxes. Which is far worse!" She hissed.
Not wanting to hear their bickering anymore, Rippleberry headed to his nest. Though, of course, he didn't get any sleep.

Wetwave

Wetwave snuck out of her den, making sure not to disturb any of the other warriors. Slowly, she crept up behind Riverice. He was sitting his warrior vigil and she thought that he looked rather lonely.
"I like your name." She purred as she sat down beside him. "It's far better than mine."
"Wetwave, your supposed to be asleep." He warned her. He had been sitting as still as possible the whole night. He continued to sit that way throughout their conversation.
"I know that. I just don't think anyone should have to spend their warrior vigil alone." She explained.
"Your right. Reedpaw should be here..." He murmured.
"She is."
"Huh?"
"She's up there, in the sky, watching over you. Watching over all of us." She explained.
"I suppose so." He replied. And so, they sat, looking up at the stars, until the sky began to lighten. Then, as the clan awoke in the camp behind them, they watched the sunrise.
"Time for you to go to sleep." She announced, flicking his ear with her tail.
"You to." He decided.
"But I have a patrol to go on!" She protested. "I'm going hunting with Echomask, Sandlight, and Smallpaw."
"Well, if you don't have to rest then neither do I." Riverice growled stubbornly.
"Fine then. You can join our patrol." Wetwave decided.

Wetwave crawled forward until she was just a tail length from the thrush. Riverice had thought up a new method of hunting and she was helping him try it out.
Once she was close enough, she began her attack. She darted around the bird, running in a tight circle so that it had nowhere to go but up. Before she had even completed a full circle, it took off. To any other cat, it looked like she had just lost her prey. But as the

thrush prepared to settled down in a nearby tree, Riverice lunged forward, plucking the bird out of the air while still keeping balance on the tree branch.
"It worked! It worked!" Wetwave chanted, prancing around the trunk of the tree as Riverice slid down to the ground.
"Great catch!" They said in unison. "You did all the hard work!" They spoke in unison again. "No, you did!" They both said before breaking off in a fit of laughter. Afterward, the continued on until they found a wren. Then, they tried the technique again, this time with Riverice on the ground and Wetwave in the tree. It worked just as well. Happy with there successful hunt, they set off to find the rest of the patrol and tell them about the new tactic.

Robinpaw

Robinpaw dodged to the side as her mentor leaped at her. However, she wasn't quick enough and Morningfang easily knocked her over.
"Try again." Clouddapple called, sounding bored.
"That makes four failed tries, Clouddapple. Maybe you should pick a new pair and let them rest." Fuzzypaw suggested.
"Fine. Stripepaw and Dustspring will go next." Clouddapple ordered.
Robinpaw sighed with relief and trotted off to the side of the clearing. Her paws were sore and her brown pelt was full of snow.
"What's going on, Robinpaw?" Pricklesplash asked as she sat down.
"Hm?"
"You just... You haven't been doing well in training." He pointed out. "Is it because your missing Troutpaw?"
"Shouldn't you be asking Applepaw that?" She responded. "She was his sister. She was nothing to me."
"Nonsense. She was your friend."
"She wasn't anyone's friend. She was just rude to us all."
Pricklesplash turned away, realizing it was true. Eventually he turned back toward her.
"Well if that's not it, what is it?" He asked.
"It's nothing. I've always been this bad." Finding the conversation embarrassing, Robinpaw didn't wait for a response and instead began cleaning her fur.

Robinpaw sat staring up at the sky, her brother beside her.
"Are you sure it was a omen?" Robinpaw asked Gorgepaw.
"I think so." Gorgepaw told her. "They showed it to me at the moon-lake. They don't show you meaningless dreams at the moon-lake."
"I know, I know." Robinpaw nodded. "What was it, again?"
"It was a vision of the camp. There was a collar in the middle of the clearing. You know, the thing that kittypets wear. It drifted into the air and then wrapped itself around a cats neck. The cat then dropped to the ground. Then, the collar moved on to another cat. Then another. Eventually, it was caught by a cat. A cat I recognized. She placed the collar around an apple that was laying on the ground. The dream ended as the apple began rapidly decomposing."

He told her.
"Huh... Well... Who was the cat you recognized?" Robinpaw asked.
"Well I'm not entirely sure, but... I think it was an older version of Stripepaw."

Gemini

Gemini crawled up behind the mouse. He leaped forward, grabbing the pray in his jaws. He snapped it's spine and began to eat, listening to the quiet rustling of the branches. Then, suddenly, the silence was broken.
"Someone help me, please!"
Startled, he grabbed his prey and hurried to the shelter of his den. Curling up beneath the roots of a pine tree, he listened as the voice continued.
"Someone... Anyone... Help me! Blackpaw! Flowerpaw! Smallpaw! Help me!!!"
He shuddered as the voice continued crying out. This cat was terrified.
"Snakeflame! Buzzarddrop! Sproutpaw! Stonepaw! Bearpaw! Goosepaw! Is anyone there?"
Realizing that the voice was coming closer, Gemini shoved himself further into the shadows of his cave.
"Please! I can't survive on my own!"
As the last sentience left her mouth, a fluffy ginger she cat collapsed in the snow just outside of his den. She covered her face with her paws and lay there, shaking. She looked so scared. Gemini quickly decided that he had to help her. Pushing aside the remains of his prey, he crawled forward slowly. Hearing the crunch of paws on snow, the she cat looked up at him, ears flat and hazel eyes wide.
"I'm s-sorry... If th-this is your t-territory, I-I can go..." She stammered, backing away.
"Is that a leash?" He asked, sniffing at the purple twoleg device that was wrapped around her neck. It was covered in mud, pine nettles, and snow melt.
"I-It is, I-I think. But... A-Aren't you going to chase me away?" She mewed weakly.
"Do you want me to?" He shook his head, not waiting for an answer. "You look scared. If I'm not wrong, you don't know where you are. I'd say your a kittypet, but you were calling out clan cat names earlier. So, which is it?"
"I-I'm a clan cat. Also, you're r-right. I have no idea where I am."

She told him.
"Well, you have strayed quite far from the territories..."
"I was taken from my clan and then banished from the clan that took me... To get back to my clan, I'd have to walk through enemy territory or Twolegplace. I didn't want to do that so I thought maybe I could make it on my own... But I can't..." She slumped to the ground and looked up at him hopelessly. "Please... Help me get home!"
Gemini stared down at the pathetic she cat. He had so many questions he had to ask.
"Well... What is your name?"
"Foxpaw. And yours?" She responded, looking saddened by the fact that he hadn't agreed yet.
"Gemini." He told her.
"Gemini? What an odd name." She murmured.
"Insulting my name doesn't quite make me want to help you." He joked.
"I'm sorry!" Foxpaw exclaimed, almost before he had finished speaking.
"Relax! Relax! I'm only joking. I was born a kittypet. My housefolk named me Gemini. I stuck with it just because of how unique it is among cats." Gemini explained. "How long have you been on your own?" He added.
"Only a few sunrises." Foxpaw told him, seemingly more comfortable speaking with him now.
"Huh. Well, why can't you just turn back?" He asked.
"I already told you, I can't be seen in MoonClan territory or I'll be killed! And I'd get lost if I crossed through Twolegplace. There are plenty of dangers there, too. And if I circled around the clan territories on the opposite side from Twolegplace, I'd be going straight through fox territory." Foxpaw explained.
"Well, your name is Foxpaw." Gemini pointed out. "I bet you could get along with them well. Maybe I'll just lead you there." He joked. She looked terrified.
"Joking! Joking! Relax!" He purred. "How about this; let's just go around the Twolegplace!"
"Around the whole Twolegplace? That'll take forever!" Foxpaw cried.
"It seems to be the safest option..."
"Well, that's true... Fine. Let's do that." She agreed.

"Then it's settled. Let's get you something to eat, rest up for a while, and set off at sunhigh." Gemini decided. Foxpaw gave a nod and Gemini showed her two his den so she could rest while he caught her the first meal she'd had in three sunrises.

Gorgepaw

Gorgepaw sat in his nest, fully awake despite the fact that the moon was at its highest point in the sky. He shivered as he recalled the prophecy he had received. Even Sorrelwing and Bluefire hadn't known what to make of it. He shook out his fur and settled down into his nest, curling up and draping his golden brown tail tip over his nose. He briefly wondered if the prophecy could have had anything to do with Troutpaw, but couldn't make any logical connections. Sure that he'd figure it out when he needed to, he lay still until, at last, he slipped into a light doze.

"What are you doing in our camp?" Sparrowtalon's outraged hiss reached Gorgepaw's ears, waking him up. He stretched out as quickly as he could and darted over to the entrance of the Medicine Den. There, just inside the entrance of the camp was a large siamese kittypet with a brown collar. Gorgepaw shuddered and retreated back into the den as he realized that Stripepaw wasn't glaring at the tom with hostility, but watching him with interest instead.
Surely... Surely this is the end of us all... Gorgepaw thought, cowering beside Sorrelwing's sleeping form. Sorrelwing stirred and looked up at him, confused.
"What is it, Gorgepaw?" She asked. "You look scared."
"Go see for herself!" He hissed quietly. Still looking confused, she stood and headed for the entrance to the Medicine Den. Bluefire, who had watched the exchange, joined her.
"I see what you mean..." Bluefire sighed. "... but it could just be a coincidence."
"No, I don't think it is." Sorrelwing mewed, looking troubled. "If your prophecy is true, Gorgepaw, this kittypet has not come here with good intentions."
Bluefire and Sorrelwing stepped outside and Gorgepaw followed. Upon reaching the group they found that the cats were listening intently to a story the siamese tom was telling them.
"... and so, since my housefolk had left, I didn't know how to take care of myself while still remaining in my home. So I escaped and decided to live as a rouge. But I am far too used to being a kittypet,

so I only ask that you let me stay here until I get used to the wild. In exchange, I will hunt for your clan. I could even live somewhere else in the territory instead of the camp." He persuaded.
"Crowstar, I really advise against this." Sorrelwing growled.
"Look, I know you don't like kittypets-"
"That's not it! Gorgepaw has received a prophecy about this cat, and it's not a good one." She warned. Crowstar stood still and silent for a moment. Finally, the leader spoke.
"Gorgepaw is a rather new apprentice. We can't base my decisions on what he says." He growled. Gorgepaw flattened his ears indignantly as Crowstar turned back to the kittypet.
"Alright, Willy. You may live in our territory, but only for up to three moons. "So long as you bring at least one piece of prey a day, we will not chase you out." He announced.
"Oh, thank you!" The kittypet purred, dipping his head. "I'll get started right away." He promised as he left the camp. As soon as he was gone, Bluefire turned on the leader.
"You've just made a huge mistake." She hissed. Crowstar simply shook his head before the two retreated to their dens.
"Are you thinking what I'm thinking?" A voice whispered behind Gorsepaw. It was Robinpaw.
"I think so." He nodded. "If what you're thinking is that this is the cat my prophecy was about." He shivered as he saw Stripepaw glance around the clearing to see if anyone was watching before slipping through the camp entrance.

Sproutpaw

Sproutpaw followed Hazelstar, Featherstem, Rainspeck, Shadowpelt, and Bearpaw through the forest. He was unsure why he and Bearpaw had been selected for this mission when Blackpaw and Smallpaw seemed far more suited to it. His fur fluffed up the moment his paws crossed the border.
Flexing his claws nervously, he followed the patrol through MoonClan territory. He sensed Bearpaw tensing up beside him, ready to sprint back to camp and retrieve the backup patrol if needed. Once they reached the camp, Hazelstar silently signaled for the patrol to stay put. She and Featherstem trotted bravely through the entrance.
"Pebblestar!" Hazelstar yowled. The rustling of leaves told Sproutpaw that the leader was exiting her den.
"Hazelstar, Flowerstem... I bet I can guess why you two are here. Come with me." She growled. A few heartbeats later, the three pushed through the entrance. Pebblestar paused briefly to glare at the four cats that had been waiting outside.
"Why are they here?" She asked.
"You know full well why I brought them." Hazelstar responded motioning for the four to follow as Pebblestar lead them away. Soon enough, they had reached a small clearing where they sat in a circle. Sproutpaw pawed at the snow as Hazelstar and Pebblestar exchanged a hateful glare.
"Your apprentice is no longer with us." Pebblestar announced to Featherstem. Sproutpaw shuddered and Bearpaw let out a whimper.
"How dare you?" Featherstem yowled, her gray fur bristling.
"It was for the good of our clan!" Pebblestar yowled in return.
"Three of our warriors died because of her! It's only fair that your clan pays the price for it."
Featherstem flattened out her gray fur and sat back down, looking somber.
"But, of course, one medicine cat apprentice does not equal three full grown warriors." Pebblestar added.
"What do you mean by that?" Hazelstar asked, trying not to let her fear show.

"I mean that you still need to pay. Another medicine cat should even up the score." Pebblestar hissed. Featherstem quickly stepped away. She was just about to run when Pebblestar made her move, leaping forward and knocking her over so that she was on her back. The whole patrol worked together and pulled her off, but they were too late. Hazelstar clawed at Pebblestar furiously and was soon soaked in her blood.
"Hazelstar! That's enough!" Shadowpelt called. "A patrol is coming! We need to get going." Hazelstar seemed as if she was pulled out of a trance by these words. She shook herself and signaled for her cats to follow her, grabbing Featherstem's body as she rushed away.
"We'll be focusing on battle training from now on." Rainspeck told Sproutpaw as they ran. "This is the beginning of a war."

Smallpaw

Smallpaw yawned, curling up in his nest. Sandlight had been making him train harder than usual. It seemed that all the mentors were anticipating a war. Sure that nothing bad would happen anytime soon, he began to fall asleep. But when he woke up, he realized how wrong he was. It was moon-high and Sandlight was shaking him awake.
"Hurry or you'll miss the battle!" She whispered. "The night patrol encountered what looked like all of MoonClan!"
Smallpaw glanced around, seeing that he was the only apprentice left in the den. He pushed his way through the entrance, eager to reach the battle before it was too late.
I will fight as well as I can. For Foxpaw. Featherstem, too.
As soon as he arrived at the border where the battle was taking place, he ran forward to help Sageleap fight off a brown she cat that he recognized as Brindlewing. He only had time to land a few blows on her side before a dark brown she cat, Shortnose, flung him aside. He let out a huff of pain as he hit the ground. In the moment it took him to recover, Shortnose had pinned him down. He thrashed around her grip before going limp. He hoped that she would think he had given up. But, to his dismay, she snarled in his ear; "I've seen that move before. You can't fool me."
Smallpaw began to panic as she prepared to land a killing blow. Just then, she let out a loud shriek of pain. Smallpaw blinked snow from his eyes, trying to see who his savior was. He expected the weight of the she cat to be lifted, but it was not. Shortnose rolled over, trying to throw off her new attacker and taking Smallpaw with her. It worked and she held Smallpaw down with three paws while using the other paw to cut open the throat of the cat who had tried to save him. It was Snakeflame, Foxpaw's mother.
How ironic...
Having just witnessed what his fate would be if this went on much longer, Smallpaw began to fight harder. Using every last ounce of strength, he flipped himself over and kicked out with his back legs, hitting her chest and pushing her away from him. She had to stop and catch her breath and Smallpaw took his chance to escape. But

he stopped short as he realized what was going on around him. Every cat was fighting for its life. The snow was stained stained red and littered with many clumps of fur of various colors. He shivered, watching the cats struggle to win... No. Not even to win. Just to live. This was no typical skirmish. This was war.

Hollypaw

Hollypaw lashed out, landing a hard blow on a silver she cats head. She hissed and leaned forward, grabbing hold of the paw he had hit her with. He yowled in pain and tried to shake her off, but she wouldn't loosen her grip. She eventually let go, but only to let out a screech as Swiftstar bit down on her tail. He had been preparing his warriors for this battle ever since he became leader.
She turned, leaping onto his shoulders and tearing at his ears. Hollypaw rushed forward and slammed into her side. She fell to the ground, belly exposed. He kicked at her mercilessly and Swiftstar joined in. But the silver she cat fought back, lunging at the leaders throat and tossing Hollypaw aside.
Hollypaw quickly recovered from the blow and leaped onto her back, pinning her to the ground again, but not before she had done enough damage to cost Swiftstar a life. He shoved her face into the snow and she struggled to force her head back up.
"W-Why are... You doing this?" She huffed between breaths. He shoved her head back down into the snow.
"Your stupid medicine cat killed my father!" He hissed, his anger giving him enough energy to keep her head down despite her efforts to resist. He laughed at her as she squirmed, but his enjoyment was short-lived. A calico tom charged toward him, rage burning in his eyes.
"Leave Wetwave alone!" The calico yowled.
"Riverice!" The she cat huffed as Hollypaw loosened his grip in surprise. The tom grabbed Hollypaw's scruff and tossed him aside with all the force he had. Hollypaw sailed through the air for a long moment, trying to process what had happened and what would happen next. But just as he began to figure it out, he felt something slam into his back and the world went dark.

Hollypaw opened his eyes and looked around. He was in a clearing surrounded by pine forest, but there was no snow on the ground. He felt the sun on his pelt, so warm that he didn't want to move. He looked up, surprised yet calmed by the sight of a clear sky with no clouds at all. As he stared he began to sense another cat

approaching. He sat up in shock when he saw Pebblestar as well as his father, Molefrost. They had stars in their pelts and were following a lean calico tom. Hollypaw stared at the cat in hatred, thinking it might be Riverice. But then the cat stopped and introduced itself.
"Hello, Hollypaw. I am Foxstar, former leader of MoonClan. Welcome to SunClan."

Characters

IceClan
Leader
Crowstar- dark brown tom with golden-brown cheeks
Deputy
Waterspots- black tom with pale blue eyes
Medicine Cats
Sorrelwing- brown she cat with a gray belly (apprentice- Gorgepaw)
Bluefire- silver ticked tabby she cat
Warriors
Tallsplash- ginger she cat with dark yellow eyes
Sootface- blue-gray tom with pale blue eyes
Mouseflight- golden brown tabby tom
Specklecloud- dark ginger spotted tabby tom (apprentice- Pinepaw)
Morningfang- light ginger she cat with red eyes (apprentice- Robinpaw)
Leaffall- ginger tabby she cat with green eyes
Pricklesplash- white tom (apprentice- Applepaw)
Sparrowtalon- tortoiseshell she cat
Robinmist- blue-gray tom
Clawtail- dark gray she cat with brown ears
Clouddapple- dark ginger she cat with light green eyes (apprentice- Fuzzypaw)
Foxfrost- cream tom with a golden-brown neck
Fernwhisker- tortoiseshell ticked tabby she cat
Thrushburr- blue-gray tom with dark gray patches
Weaselheart- gray tom with a white nose
Milkshade- light ginger she cat with amber eyes
Runningrabbit- brown tom with golden brown ears
Dustspring- golden brown tom with midnight blue eyes (apprentice- Stripepaw)
-Grayshadow- light gray tom with a light brown tail tip
-Rippleberry- dark gray spotted tabby tom
Apprentices
-Applepaw- dark gray tom with a brown nose
-Fuzzypaw- dark ginger tom with dark yellow eyes

-Robinpaw- brown she cat with amber eyes
-Gorgepaw- golden-brown tom, missing his claws
-Pinepaw- dark ginger she cat with a black nose
-Stripepaw- white she cat with black patches and light ginger patches with faint stripes
Queens
Flowerbriar- light brown she cat with ginger paws (mate- Pricklesplash)
Tawnybee- dark gray she cat with a dark ginger chest (mate- Crowstar)
Elders
Brackenwillow- golden brown tom with amber eyes
Brightpool- gray spotted tabby she cat with a scar across her left eye
Cinderstorm- ginger mackerel tabby she cat with dark brown paws
Yellowstripe- white classic tabby she cat

CloudClan
Leader
Longstar- ginger she cat with dark brown paws
Deputy
Blazefeather- light brown she cat with a ginger tail tip
Medicine Cats
Willowflower- gray tom with a light ginger muzzle (apprentice- Shadepaw)
Bouncebright- white tom with a gray face
Warriors
Gooseshine- golden brown she cat with a gray chest
Seedclaw- light ginger tom with silver ears
Leopardfur- blue-gray tom with a brown nose (apprentice- Pinepaw)
Poppynose- tortoiseshell she cat
Cedarscar- blue-gray ticked tabby she cat
Silverthroat- calico tom
Ashstep- golden brown she cat with dark green eyes
Hazewind- white she cat with midnight blue eyes
Tigerspot- gray she cat with red eyes
Brambleflake- light brown tom with dark gray stripes
Nightberry- ginger she cat (apprentice- Rowanpaw)
Mistspirit- black tom with a brown nose and light gray stripes
Smokestrike- dark gray classic tabby she cat

Onebird- gray tom with hazel eyes
Mintdust- light gray tom with soft yellow eyes
Apprentices
-Pinepaw- dark ginger tom with light ginger patches
-Shadepaw- light gray she cat
-Rowanpaw- light brown tom with gray ears
Queens
Goldenhawk- dark brown she cat with one missing claw (mate- Brambleflake)- one kit
-Barkkit- brown she cat with a light gray tail tip
Firesky- golden brown she cat (mate- Mintdust)
Elders
Toadtooth- light ginger classic tabby tom
Spiderspots- silver tom with light green eyes
Darkbreeze- calico she cat

Characters 2

FrostClan
Leader
Hazelstar- cream she cat with a scar over her left eye
Deputy
Frosteye- dark gray she cat with a scar on her right flank
Medicine cats
Dapplewhisper- dark ginger mackerel tabby she cat (apprentice- Milkpaw)
Warriors
Echomask- brown she cat with white patches
Shadowpelt- white classic tabby she cat (apprentice- Bearpaw)
Sageleap- blue-gray spotted tabby she cat
Thornbelly- ginger tom with hazel eyes
Gorseflower- blue-gray tom with dark yellow eyes
Mudpad- golden brown she cat with amber eyes
Snowsong- dark gray tom with light ginger patches
Emberfern- white she cat with dark brown eyes
Breezesnow- gray tom with golden brown paws (apprentice- Riverpaw)
Rainspeck- brown she cat with a golden brown muzzle (apprentice- Sproutpaw)
Redtuft- dark brown tom with a white nose and black paws (apprentice- Blackpaw)
Sandlight- dark brown she cat with a black nose (apprentice- Smallpaw)
Russetblaze- light brown tom with bright blue eyes (apprentice- Flowerpaw)
Tinyeyes- golden brown she cat with pale blue eyes (apprentice- Stonepaw)
Buzzarddrop- dark ginger tom with red eyes
Brownskip- light brown tom with a scar on his left cheek (apprentice- Goosepaw)
-Cedarwish- ginger tom with light brown paws
-Wetwave- silver she cat with a white nose
-Treebird- ginger mackerel tabby tom

-Riverice- calico tom
Apprentices
-Stonepaw- lanky siamese tom with wide ice blue eyes and flecks of gray and black
-Flowerpaw- dark brown tom with dark brown eyes
-Bearpaw- young, sleek, black tom
-Sproutpaw- long haired golden brown tom
-Smallpaw- small brown tom with blue-green eyes
-Goosepaw- gray tom with brown paws
-Blackpaw- dark cream colored she cat with brown eyes
-Milkpaw- brown tom
Queens
Halfstream- black she cat with a cream colored muzzle (mate-Cloverfoot)
Elders
Volewatcher- cream tom with a dark brown face
Rockjaw- black tom with a brown nose
Cherrypuddle- black she cat
Stumpyfall- brown tom with soft yellow eyes
Blackleaf- silver tom with amber eyes

MoonClan
Leader
Swiftstar- gray tom with a scar on his left flank
Deputy
Kinkpool- dark ginger she cat with a brown chest (apprentice-Raggedpaw)
Medicine cats
Beechbranch- ginger tom
Heatherwater- dark brown she cat with a silver neck
Warriors
Thunderdapple- black tom with a cream colored face
Sharpsplash- cream tom with a dark brown chest (apprentice-Fawnpaw)
Brokenfeather- dark brown she cat with purple eyes
Brindlewing- brown she cat with dark green eyes
Willowbriar- silver she cat with dark yellow eyes
Owlflower- black she cat with amber eyes
Shortnose- dark brown she cat with a dark gray tail tip
Patchwillow- dark ginger she cat with one bright blue eye and one

hazel eye
Littlebright- brown she cat with blue-gray stripes
Ratfire- gray tom with three missing claws
Mothshine- ginger mackerel tabby tom
Stonestorm- cream classic tabby tom
Apprentices
-Raggedpaw- light brown tabby she cat
-Fawnpaw- brown tom with a silver tail tip
Elders
Windhawk- light brown she cat with a pink nose
Scorchwind- tortoiseshell she cat
Jaggedblaze- golden brown she cat with soft yellow eyes

Characters 3

Kittypets
-Carter- young, thick-furred brown tom with a pink collar
-Willy- young siamese tom with a brown collar
Vine- black tom with a brown collar
Rosie- white she cat with small patches of various shades of brown and gray, one yellow eye and one blue eye and a brown collar
Minna- calico she cat with a maroon collar
Bess- calico she cat with a black collar
Nip- bushy tailed gray she cat with bright green eyes and a teal collar
Bell- light gray she cat with orange eyes and an orange collar.

Loners
-Gemini- light blue-gray tom with mint green eyes
-Foxpaw- dark ginger she cat with hazel eyes with a purple collar and leash

SunClan

Former IceClan
Icestar- first leader- white tom with ice blue eyes
Thornstar- second leader- brown mackerel tabby tom
Gorsestar- third leader- gray tom with white and black patches
Buzzardpaw- former medicine cat- black she cat with orange eyes and white toes
Ebonyshell- former medicine cat- black and cream tabby she cat with light green eyes
Briarwasp- light brownish ginger tabby she cat with a black tail and paws
Maskpaw- dark brown she cat

Former CloudClan
Cloudstar- first leader- light ginger she cat with white patches and sky blue eyes

Sagestar- second leader- sand colored classic tabby tom with dark green eyes
Pinesap- former medicine cat- light brown she cat
Gorseowl- former medicine cat- light gray spotted tom with light brown eyes and paws
Lionlight- former medicine cat- ginger and light ginger tabby tom
Winddawn- white tom with gray paws and a gray tail tip
-Pouncewing- dark gray she cat with dark ginger paws

Former FrostClan
Froststar- first leader- dark gray and black spotted tom
Whiskerstar- second leader- light tortoiseshell tom
Stumpypatch- former medicine cat- dark brown tom with white patches
-Featherstem- former medicine cat- gray she cat
-Snakeflame- dark cream she cat
Spiritecho- light ginger tom with white stripes
-Reedpaw- black she cat with light green eyes
Rippleswift- dark gray tom with dark blue eyes
-Cloverfoot- brown spotted tabby tom

Former MoonClan
Moonstar- first leader- blueish gray she cat with wide yellow eyes
Coalstar- second leader- black and dark gray tabby tom with yellow eyes
Foxstar- third leader- calico tom with dark green eyes
-Pebblestar- fourth leader- black she cat with gray patches
Buzzardsky- former medicine cat- black and white she cat
Specklespirit- former medicine cat- light brown speckled tom
Splashthorn- dark gray spotted tabby she cat
-Molefrost- brown tom with light brown paws
-Sunstripe- black she cat with a white nose
-Splashflight- gray tom with a ginger muzzle
-Hollypaw- light brown tom with light gray paws

Wetwave

Wetwave stared at the light brown apprentice as his body was tossed into a tree. Even though the tom had been trying to suffocate her only a few heartbeats ago, she found herself rushing forward to check his breathing. Riverice ran forward and stood beside her, staring down at the tom in disbelief.
"He's not breathing...." Wetwave whimpered. Then, she realized what had happened. "You... You killed him, Riverice! You killed an apprentice!"
Riverice stared back at her, his mouth opening and closing as if he wanted to say something, but couldn't find the words. But all he could manage was: "I was only trying to protect you..."
Wetwave knew that he wasn't lying. She knew that, when in battle, cats could do things that weren't right without thinking it through. But still, she thought to herself, ***Is my life more valuable than his? If Riverice hadn't saved me, would I have been mad at him? Would this apprentice be asking himself the same questions if the roles where reversed?*** She shook the thoughts away, unable to answer any of her own questions. Instead of think then through any more, she turned and fled from the battle, leaving Riverice to stare back at her in alarm.
"Wetwave! Please... It was an accident!" He cried, desperate to make her understand. Wetwave flattened her ears and put on an extra burst of speed. She shook her head, wanting to make the images of the battle that stuck in her mind go away. But the images wouldn't go away.
If this is what it means to be a warrior, then... I don't want to be a warrior! Wetwave sprinted on through the trees, veering toward the moor as the Twolegplace came into view. Thoughts continued to rush through her head as Riverice continued to call out to her. ***If these battles keep happening, more cats will die! I will be living among murderers! Some of them already are murderers, including my best friend! I can't keep doing this. I never even wanted to. I even hesitated before speaking at my warrior ceremony, didn't I?*** She stopped abruptly and Riverice skidded to a halt beside her.
"Listen, Wetwave, I-"

"I can't take it anymore!" She cried, interrupting him. "I... I can't be a warrior. If this is what it means... I can't stay!"
Riverice stared back at her in dismay. "But you can't leave! We need you here! What would I- I mean, the clan- do without you?"
"FrostClan has plenty of warriors." Wetwave murmured. "They'll be fine without one."
Riverice stared into her eyes until she looked away, sorrow clouding her gaze.
"I... I can't live among murderers." She whispered before looking back up at him, accusation burning in her blue eyes.
"It was an accident. I thought was saving you." Riverice whispered back. Wetwave stood and headed back toward the camp, brushing against him as she passed.
"I understand. But this isn't just about you. I'll say goodbye to everyone once they're battle wounds have healed. After that, don't expect to ever see me again." With that, Wetwave left Riverice staring after her with wide, disbelieving eyes.
"Don't go..."

Goosepaw

Goosepaw stared triumphantly after the MoonClan cats as they fled from Frostclan territory, carrying the lifeless body of a brown apprentice as well as the recovering body of their leader. Yowls of victory rose up all around him and he soon joined in.
"Swiftstar won't be to happy when he wakes up and sees that his clan has surrendered!" Emberfern purred.
"I'm sure Kinkpool will never hear the end of it!" Brownskip agreed. "Right, Riverice?"
Goosepaw turned to the calico tom, expecting him to join in. But Riverice just gave a slight, unenthusiastic nod before turning to follow the retreating cats back to camp.
"What's with him? Has he gone soft?" Gorseflower growled.
"No, that wouldn't make sense." Emberfern responded, shaking her head. "After all, he's the one that killed the poor little apprentice." She pointed out. "No soft cat would kill an an apprentice, especially not one that young."
Riverice stiffened at her words. He looked as if he was struggling not to face her. He kept his head and tail down, but his fur was still spiked up along his spine. The cats soon reached their camp and Dapplewhisker burst out of her den, Milkpaw at her side.
"Cats with life threatening wounds first! Then, deep cuts and broken bones! Then, wrenched claws, sprains, and shallow bites and cuts!" She demanded. The cats lined up accordingly. To the shock and surprise of Goosepaw, Sandlight and Russetblaze began dragging Tinyeyes to the front of the line. Stonepaw gasped and ran forward as he noticed the long, deep cut in his mentors belly.
Milkpaw darted into his den to get herbs as Dapplewhisker began dabbing at the wound with cobwebs. Deciding that the clearing was too crowded, Dapplewhisker motioned for Sandlight and Russetblaze to carry Tinyeyes into her den. The medicine cat emerged moments later to help the next cats in line. As the medicine cats worked their way through the line of cats, Goosepaw looked up to see Wetwave trotting toward Hazelstar. Riverice was watching her with a look he could not read, but his thoughts were forced away from the two as the medicine cats reached him.

Rowanpaw

Rowanpaw stood in the entrance, shivering. This would be his second gathering. He was snuck into one when he was a kit, but he didn't have to meet the cats of the other clans at that one. And he was with Shadepaw at that one.
Once Longstar gave the signal, the patrol headed off. Rowanpaw headed along behind Poppynose and Cedarscar who were chatting happily. He turned to see Shadepaw sitting in the camp entrance. It bothered him that he couldn't make out her expression.
"You'll be fine." Purred Nightberry. She nudged him playfully and he just stared back at her blankly until she began laughing awkwardly. "Really, though. You must work past this... Disability of yours. I trust that you will be able to you will be able to make some friends without help today."
Rowanpaw struggled to force his paws forward. ***Make friends on my own? I can't do that!*** He struggled with the urge to turn and run back to camp where he could cower at Shadepaw's side while she calmed him. But he was an apprentice now, like her. They were equals now. She couldn't comfort him anymore.
Once they had arrived at the gathering place, Nightberry nudged Rowanpaw toward a small group of three apprentices. Rowanpaw turned toward the three apprentices to see that one of them, a siamese tom, was beckoning him forward. Rowanpaw trotted forward cautiously, noticing that the tom was wearing a collar.
"My name is Willy. I'm staying with IceClan. He introduced himself as Rowanpaw sat beside him. "This is Pinepaw from IceClan and this is Goosepaw from FrostClan. Who are you?"
"This is Rowanpaw from CloudClan." Nightberry announced. "Have fun, you four!" She purred before darting off toward a group of MoonClan cats.
"So, Rowanpaw, how long have you been in training?" Pinepaw asked. Rowanpaw stared at the she cat in confusion. ***There are two Pinepaws?*** Still overwhelmed, Rowanpaw lifted a paw and unsheathed one claw. He had hoped that they would understand that it meant one moon, but the apprentices seemed to take it the wrong way. They flinched away from him and he quickly sheathed

his claws, tempted to follow them as they hurried away from him. But, thinking that they might take that the wrong way too, he turned away dejectedly.
As Rowanpaw looked around for other apprentices, he noticed that the FrostClan and MoonClan cats were staying on opposite sides of the clearing. He was going to find someone who may be talking about something that would give it away when the leaders began quieting the crowd. Longstar stepped forward.
"Our clan has been thriving, even more so with new kits on the way." She announced. CloudClan and IceClan purred and exchanged joyful words at the thought of new kits, but FrostClan and MoonClan continued to bristle and glare at each other in hatred from opposite sides of the clearing.
"We have a new apprentice here as well. Rowanpaw." Longstar added, nodding to him. He froze as attention was placed on him and CloudClan and IceClan cheered his name. A few FrostClan and MoonClan cats joined in, but their bad mood remained. The cats soon fell silent and Swiftbright stepped forward.
"As you no doubt have noticed by now, Pebblestar is dead." He announced. A stunned silence met his words and he continued. "She was murdered."
Gasps of shock and disbelief met his words and Hazelstar fixed Swiftbright- Swiftstar, now- with a cold stare, leaving Rowanpaw to wonder if he was accusing her.
"I will not deny my actions." Meowed Hazelstar. More gasps broke out around the clearing. "But you seem to have forgotten that I did it as revenge for our two medicine cats." She added cooly.
Rowanpaw felt his fur spike up as Swiftstar turned on her, unsheathing his claws. Crowstar darted forward to hold Swiftstar back as he prepared to pounce on Hazelstar.
"These gatherings never go well." Longstar muttered as she leaped into the crowd and began gathering her warriors. As they left, Rowanpaw glanced apologetically over his shoulder at the cats he had scared earlier, but they didn't seem to notice.

Foxpaw

Foxpaw darted forward as she finally began to see the edge of the pine forest. Gemini followed her, less enthusiastic.
"We're about to go beyond the land that we know." He warned.
"I know. But with less trees around, it will be easier for us to see the Twolegplace. We won't get lost if we can see the Twolegplace." She pointed out.
"I still think we should go through Twolegplace. I know every tail length of it." Gemini reasoned. It was an argument he had made many times over the past few sunrises. Foxpaw still looked doubtful.
"Look at you!" He added. "Neither of us have had a decent meal since we started this. I'm to used to only hunting for one cat and you can't hunt at all! If we go into the Twolegplace, I can teach you how to steal food from Twolegs."
Foxpaw flattened her ears, annoyed by the fact that she couldn't think of a way to counter his argument. "Fine." She sighed.
Gemini immediately set off again, attempting to hide the smug look on his face. Foxpaw followed more slowly. ***What if we get caught by Twolegs? Would we ever be able to escape?***
But her worries disappeared as she finally reached the end of the forest. A gradual slope appeared in front of her and she and Gemini exchanged a quick glance before breaking into a run. They raced each other to the top of the slope. Gemini easily passed Foxpaw, but soon slowed his pace so that she was going faster. Once at the top of the slope she turned to call to her blue-gray friend as he joined her.
"I won!" Foxpaw chanted. "I won! I won! I-" She broke off as she saw what lay ahead of her. A steep, rocky slope lead down into a beautiful snow covered valley. A river wound through it, wide and deep enough to have a channel of free flowing water in the center.
"It's beautiful..." Gemini murmured. Foxpaw nodded and instinctively took a step forward, but Gemini held her back.
"Twolegplace." He reminded her. She looked down at the ground, knowing he was right but not wanting to agree. The valley was so pretty and the Twolegplace was so scary. She had been there before

and she hadn't liked it very much. Even so, she followed Gemini without complaining as he led her along the top of the slope.

Applepaw

Applepaw flopped down beside the apprentices den, paws sore and cold from fishing all day. He sighed happily, glad that the river had finally thawed. He pawed playfully at the snow flakes falling from the sky, only pausing as Stripepaw excited the den.
"I see you were successful." She purred, glancing at the new fish he had added to the fresh kill pile.
"Yep. Hey, want to share one?" Applepaw asked.
"Sure. I'm starving!" She exclaimed. She sat down in they're typical eating spot while Applepaw grabbed a fish from the pile and carried it over to her. Once they finished the fish, they sat and talked about training.
"Pricklesplash is a good mentor, but he can be a bit demanding." Applepaw told Stripepaw. She nodded.
"Lucky for me, Dustspring isn't like that! Though I sort of wish he was. He focus more on wether or not I'm having fun rather than wether or not I'm learning." Stripepaw giggled.
"I wouldn't mind that. Can we trade mentors?" Applepaw joked, prompting more giggling from Stripepaw.
"I wouldn't mind, but I don't think Crowstar would allow it." Stripepaw purred.
"Glad to see your so proud to be my apprentice." A voice growled. The apprentices jumped in surprise and looked up.
"Dustspring!" Stripepaw gasped. "I-I didn't mean it! We were only joking!"
"I know, I know." Dustspring purred, whiskers twitching in amusement. "Once you two are done joking, join me by the river. Applepaw did well, but it's your turn to hunt for the clan." Stripepaw nodded eagerly and turned to Applepaw.
"That was close!" She purred.
"It sure was! You'd better wash up and get going. If you take too long, he may start taking our jokes the wrong way. I'll help." Applepaw decided. He sat beside her and washed her ears as she washed her chest and paws. Once they had finished, she stood and darted off toward the river. As she reached the entrance, she turned and called out to Applepaw, thanking him. He nodded and returned

to batting at the snowflakes that were still falling from the sky.

Applepaw blinked open his eyes to see that the snow had stopped. He stretched out his legs and back and steeped outside into the fresh, deep snow. He breathed in deeply, enjoying the crisp air. A squeal of excitement suddenly interrupted the silence. He glanced over to see Pinepaw wrestling with Fuzzypaw in the fresh snow while Stripepaw crept up silently behind them. She jumped forward, knocking Fuzzypaw off her sister. Applepaw darted over to the group, helping his brother stand. Together they stood, bristling, facing Stripepaw and Pinepaw.
"Brothers versus sisters!" Pinepaw purred. "Attack!"
The apprentices leaped at each other and the four of wrestled around in the snow, batting at each other with their soft paws until their mentors awoke and hurried them off for real battle practice.

Smallpaw

"Now that you are all recovering from the war with MoonClan... I have an announcement." Wetwave called, standing close beside Hazelstar and looking sad. Smallpaw stopped and turned to look at her. There had been rumors spread about the blue-gray she cat, so he could guess what she had to say.
"Now that I have been in a true battle..." She began, her voice surprisingly steady, "I don't think I am suited to clan life."
Riverice visibly shuddered at these words. Gasps of shock rose from the crowd, but most of the cats just looked sad.
"Wetwave will be leaving the clan to become a kittypet. However, if she is spotted on our land after today, you may *not* attack her." Hazelstar announced. With that, she turned and headed back to her den. Smallpaw watched as Riverice tried to approach Wetwave. He expected the two best friends to exchange goodbyes, but she turned away without a word and padded over to share goodbyes with the elders instead. Riverice slumped his shoulders and turned away, sitting with his back to the clearing.
"We'll miss you around here!" Thornbelly purred.
"Well I certainly won't miss you, with all that complaining you do!" Wetwave purred jokingly. "But really, I will miss this clan." She added, suddenly looking serious.
Smallpaw looked around and noticed that not everyone was joining in the goodbyes. One of those cats was Blackpaw. She hadn't done much of anything since Foxpaw's death. ***A burial probably would have helped. Too bad we didn't get her body back... Wait...***
Smallpaw leaped up and bounded toward Wetwave.
"Can I walk with you for a bit?" He asked.
"I don't see why not!" She purred. Calling out one last farewell to her clanmates, Wetwave turned and pushed through the camp entrance with Smallpaw just behind her.
"Wetwave..." He murmured as they walked. "I want to ask you something."
"What is it?" She asked, looking surprised. ***How do I do this?*** Smallpaw thought. ***She won't agree right away. Maybe if I ask the right questions and say the right things, I can casually trick her***

into going along with it!
"Do you really want to be a kittypet?" Smallpaw asked Wetwave.
"Not really." She admitted. "I just... Don't want to be a warrior."
"Ah. Well, why not be a rouge, then?"
"I just thought that being a kittypet would be easier."
"That's too bad."
"Why?" Wetwave paused and turned to face him.
"If you were a rouge, maybe you could have met up with Foxpaw." He told her.
"Is that a threat?" Wetwave asked, looking confused.
"It's not. Just... Think about it. Did they ever actually say they killed her? No, they just said she wasn't there. They also said that she isn't with them anymore because she killed some of their warriors. Foxpaw is not capable of doing that, she's too soft. And most important of all, why would they bury her? Why would they want her body to forever be part of their land? If she were really dead, they'd have given her body back." He pointed out. Wetwave listened intently the whole time.
"You're right..." She murmured, eyes wide. Suddenly she looked determined. "It's decided, then. I'll go after her and bring her back. Thank you, Smallpaw!" She called as she ran off toward MoonClan territory. Satisfied, Smallpaw headed back to camp. Blackpaw looked up when she noticed him trotting toward her, looking pleased.
"Glad she's gone?" Blackpaw growled sarcastically.
"You're sister will be back soon. You're welcome." He growled in response before leaving her there, looking utterly confused, yet hopeful.

Cloverfoot

"Are you sure she's ready?" Cloverfoot asked Featherstem.
"Of course she's ready." Featherstem murmured in his ear before turning back to Reedpaw. The starry pelts of the three cats illuminated the trees closest to them as they stood. "Do you remember what Froststar told you? I don't mean to alarm you, but this is an important job."
Reedpaw nodded, looking a bit unnerved.
"Alright. Get going, then." Meowed Cloverfoot. Reedpaw closed her eyes and began to focus. Soon enough, she faded away. Featherstem let out the breath she had been holding in.
"Our plans are going well." She purred. "Now it's your turn!"
Cloverfoot closed his eyes and concentrated. Within moments, he felt himself shift out of SunClan and appear in the world of the living. Opening his eyes. He saw the two cats he had been sent to help. Padding forward, he prodded them both until they woke up.
"Ah!" The gray tom gasped when he saw Cloverfoot. He jumped up and arched his back, puffing out his fur.
"Cloverfoot?" The ginger she cat whispered, far less bothered by this surprise visit. She stood up slowly. "You're dead?"
Without so much as a nod, Cloverfoot turned and signaled for them to follow. The tom was hesitant, but followed when he saw that the she cat was not worried. Cloverfoot trekked out through the forest with the two cats following until the Twolegplace came into view. Using his tail, he pointed to it and said; "You will know you are home when you hear the ringing of a bell."
With that, he disappeared.

"Did it work?" Featherstem asked when he returned.
"Let's see." He gestured at the ground below them. They sat down and the ground dissolved, giving them a view of the two cats.
"You'll know you're home when you here the ringing of a bell..." The she cat muttered. "It must be a prophecy."
Featherstem smiled at her former apprentice as she began trying to figure it out.
"We'll, I'm sure will know when we're supposed to." The she cat

sighed.
"Either way, we have to go through Twolegplace. That's where the star-cat pointed." Mewed the tom. "So let's get going."
The vision faded and Featherstem and Cloverfoot glanced at each other, excited.
"Our first prophecy as SunClan cats!" Featherstem purred.
"Smallpaw did some of the work for us, so all that's left is to see how Reedpaw did." Cloverfoot added. As if on cue, Reedpaw reappeared.
"It went well." She smiled.
"Yes! Our first mission is a successes!" Featherstem mewed, jumping up and down.
"Not quite yet." Cloverfoot reminded her. "We still have to see if they take action."

Willy

Willy stuck his head out of his his makeshift den, looking around. He pulled his head back in and stretched out his legs before pushing through the entrance. Having decided that he'd hunt for IceClan first thing every day, he sniffed around. Picking up the scent of rat, he set off. He had never hunted a rat, but he figured he could if he tried. Stalking forward, he tracked the rat. Within heartbeats, it came into view.

Dropping down, Willy crawled forward. When he had first arrived in the forest, he hadn't known how to stalk like this. However, a pretty calico named Stripepaw had taught him all she knew. As he crawled forward, he kept her words in mind. ***Keep your weight spread out evenly. Keep your tail off the ground. Keep your…***

His mind lost track of the teachings as searing pain shot up his leg. Kicking out furiously, he loosened the grip of whatever had attacked him. He spun around to see a second rat. The one he had been hunting darted forward and jumped onto Willy's back. He let out a yowl of pain, and his cry was answered.

"Hold on! I'll be right with you!" A voice called. Encouraged by the sound of paw steps bounding toward him, Willy fought until the rat on his back was down on the ground again. Hearing rustling on the bushes, he thought that help had arrived. But, to his horror, the rustling stopped when two more rats jumped through the bushes. ***How did they get here?*** Willy thought, his pelt bristling. Suddenly, all four rats leaped on him at once. He lashed out frantically and rolled around in the snow, unsure of what to do. He rolled over, squishing one of the rats. It squealed in pain and darted off toward the edge of the clearing. As he continued to roll, two others did the same. The fourth, which was now clinging to Willy's face to avoid being squashed, was ripped off by powerful claws. Now that his sight was not clouded by thick gray fur, Willy saw before him a ginger tabby. He sighed with relief. It was Stripepaw's mother, Leaffall.

"Thank you!" He panted as she snapped the rat's spine. The other rats charged forward again.

"No problem." She muttered as the rats launched their second attack

the largest rat went for Leaffall while the two smaller ones went for Willy. The first one grasped his tail between its teeth while the second one grasped the fur on his side with its claws pulling the same trick he had used last time, Willy rolled into his side. But this time, he stayed like that, suffocating the rat while he used his hind paws to shred the rat on his tail. He was facing away from Leaffall and couldn't see what she was doing, but the showers of snow being kicked up and landing on his pelt showed that she was struggling.
I have to deal with these two quickly and help her out!
With one final kick, he knocked the rat off his tail. Jumping up, he nipped the spine of the half-suffocated rat before leaping onto the other as it struggled away. Once they were both dead, the largest rat leaped at Willy. He spun around and knocked it to the ground, snapping it's neck in the process. Exhausted, he sat down and looked over at Leaffall.
"We did it!" He panted. "We... Beat the... Rats..."
His speech slowed as a wave of horror and grief hit him. Forgetting how tired he was, Willy jumped up and darted toward the lifeless body of Leaffall.
"Oh... No..." He muttered, eyes wide in shock. "Oh no! Oh no, oh no, oh no!" He yowled. Utter grief and hopelessness washed over Willy as he slumped to the ground beside Leaffall's broken and bleeding body.

Rippleberry

Rippleberry sat on guard just outside the nursery, peering in every one in a while to see Flowerbriar and Pricklesplash watching their kits, which had only been born the night before.
"What shall we name them?" He heard Flowerbriar ask.
Pricklesplash looked down at the kits, a she cat and a tom.
"How about this," Pricklesplash mewed softly to his mate, "I'll name the tom and you can name the she cat."
Flowerbriar nodded and Pricklesplash watched the tom for a bit before deciding.
"Eaglekit." He meowed decisively. Flowerbriar purred approvingly.
"Then the other will be Larkkit." She announced. Rippleberry felt joy fill his heart as he looked at the kits. He couldn't help but wonder if he would one day mentor one of them. Perhaps his brother, Grayshadow, would mentor the other. As the two mates nuzzled each other fondly, Rippleberry's attention was drawn away by the sound of a cat crashing through the entrance. It was Willy. He was covered in scratches, bites, and the scent of rat.
"Crowstar!" The young cat cried, looking terrified. The leader emerged from his den and padded toward Willy.
"What is it? Do you have prey?" He asked.
"I... I did catch some rats, but... Just follow me!" The former kittypet panted. Rippleberry glanced around the clearing and saw all three medicine cats peering out of their den with a knowing look in their eyes. Gorgepaw flattened his ears, looking scared, while Bluefire let out a low growl. When Rippleberry turned his attention back to Willy and Crowstar, he saw that the leaders gaze had settled on him.
"You are very observant, Rippleberry." He mewed, his gaze steady. "That could get you into trouble one day, but it could also prove useful. Would you like to come with us?"
Rippleberry's ears perked in surprise at the offer. "Sure!"
"Right. Robinpaw, you can take over guarding the nursery now." Crowstar called as he followed Willy out of the camp. Rippleberry jumped up and darted after them. Willy led the two clan cats toward his den, pausing at the edge of the clearing in front of it.

Gulping, the former kittypet composed himself before pushing through the bushes. Crowstar and Rippleberry pushed through after him, pausing as they took in the scene stretched out before them. There, right in front of them, was the body of Leaffall surrounded by the bodies of four dead rats. Crowstar and Rippleberry exchanged a glance and he nodded, standing and padding around the clearing, taking in every detail.
"I was hunting a rat when more of them appeared and started attacking me." Willy explained. "Leaffall heard the sound of a fight and came to help me. I didn't know anything was wrong until I had killed off all the rats."
Crowstar didn't seem pleased with this answer. Without a word, he turned to Rippleberry.
"He's right. If you look closely, there are rat bites on her her neck." He confirmed. Crowstar nodded solemnly.
"You did a good job of fighting these rats." Crowstar praised. "I'm sure there was nothing you could do about Leaffall. Rippleberry," he called to the gray warrior, nodding at Leaffall's body. Together, the two cats picked up the body and carried it away. Willy picked up two of the rats and darted after them.

A/N: We are fast approaching part 50! As a special treat for this achievement, comment below who you want me to write about next! You can comment one cat or a list of up to five. I promise I will set up a chapter for the cat as soon as I get a request! And yes, you may request a cat that someone has already requested. If that happens, I'll write two chapters about that cat! Also, since it's a special occasion, you can request a cat I've never written about before! ^-^
Warning: I will only accept thirty requests before this offer ends!

Troutpaw

As requested by Swiftflight

Sorry it took so long!

Troutpaw blinked open her eyes, slightly confused. She glanced around to see that she was underground. Suddenly, the scent of fox reached her and she remembered. She had been carried away by the foxes that had attacked her clanmates!
She jumped up and was about to run when she remembered...

That's right... I've been staying here for a while. They haven't hurt me. Now at ease, Troutpaw stretched out her legs and stood, padding calmly toward the entrance of the den.

"I've recovered from fighting these guys... I should try to head back home." She decided aloud. Picturing her arrival, she puffed out her chest proudly. They'd be so glad to see her. She'd pretend that she had killed all the foxes. ***They'd have to make me a warrior right away!***

Purring at the thought, she suddenly began to feel restless. waving her tail in a silent goodbye to her sleeping friends, Troutpaw took the first step out of the den and toward home.

The mother fox woke with a start as Troutpaw leaped back into the cave with a shriek.

"What is this?" She mewed, going cross-eyed as she stared at the bead of water sitting on her nose. Causiously, she poked her head back out and tried not to flinch at the scene displayed before her. The ground just outside of the den was bare and damp. The ground beyond had a thinner blanket of snow than usual and, most unsettling of all, there where drops of water falling from the sky.

"W-What? No way..." Troutpaw gasped as the mother fox crawled

up next to her and stared outside. "Rain? Here?" She added, remembering a word she had heard only in a story told be Willowflower about how he had ventured beyond there frost-bitten land to find a rare herb. In the land beyond, where there had not been snow on the ground, it had rained.

Backing away from the entrance, Troutpaw bumped into the male fox. She spun around to face him and he opened his jaws and said:

"You have been warned. Go, spread the news."

Gasping in shock, Troutpaw opened her eyes and glanced around to find the fox family still sound asleep. Shaken by her dream, she jumped up and crawled outside, sighing with relief when she saw that the snow on the ground was fairly deep. She stood for a moment, ears twitching, as she ran over what the fox had said in her dream.

"Right. The foxes gave me a good home while I recovered, but it's time to go warn my clan about the rain." Filled with purpose, Troutpaw set off toward home. But, once again, again, she did not get very far. The mother fox leaped out of the den and paused in front of Troutpaw, cutting off her path.

"Get out of my way, filthy creature." She growled. The fox growled back. edging closer to the cat, she began to herd her back toward the den.

"Quit it!" Troutpaw hissed, lashing out at the vixen. Greatly bothered by this action, the mother fox sunk her teeth into the she cat's scruff, dragging her back into the den. Writhing and hissing and kicking, Troutpaw fought to free herself. The vixen shrieked and dropped the cat as her claws broke skin. At the sound of her cry, the other foxes woke. The pup immediately pinned Troutpaw to ground and she kicked desperately at him, feeling the blood from his belly drip onto her own.

Enraged, the father grabbed his son and pulled him away. Once his mate and pup where safe behind him, he prepared to deliver a killing to Troutpaw who was now trapped in the very back of the den, seemingly with no means of escape.

Characters

IceClan
Leader
Crowstar- dark brown tom with golden-brown cheeks
Deputy
Waterspots- black tom with pale blue eyes
Medicine Cats
Sorrelwing- brown she cat with a gray belly (apprentice- Gorgepaw)
Bluefire- silver ticked tabby she cat
Warriors
Tallsplash- ginger she cat with dark yellow eyes
Sootface- blue-gray tom with pale blue eyes
Mouseflight- golden brown tabby tom
Specklecloud- dark ginger spotted tabby tom (apprentice- Pinepaw)
Morningfang- light ginger she cat with red eyes (apprentice- Robinpaw)
Pricklesplash- white tom
Sparrowtalon- tortoiseshell she cat
Robinmist- blue-gray tom
Clawtail- dark gray she cat with brown ears
Clouddapple- dark ginger she cat with light green eyes
Foxfrost- cream tom with a golden-brown neck
Fernwhisker- tortoiseshell ticked tabby she cat
Thrushburr- blue-gray tom with dark gray patches
Weaselheart- gray tom with a white nose
Milkshade- light ginger she cat with amber eyes
Runningrabbit- brown tom with golden brown ears
Dustspring- golden brown tom with midnight blue eyes (apprentice- Stripepaw)
-Grayshadow- light gray tom with a light brown tail tip
-Rippleberry- dark gray spotted tabby tom
-Applecloud- dark gray tom with a brown nose
-Fuzzyfoot- dark ginger tom with dark yellow eyes
Apprentices
-Robinpaw- brown she cat with amber eyes
-Gorgepaw- golden-brown tom, missing his claws

-Pinepaw- dark ginger she cat with a black nose
-Stripepaw- white she cat with black patches and light ginger patches with faint stripes
Queens
Flowerbriar- light brown she cat with ginger paws (mate- Pricklesplash)
Eaglekit- white tom with brown paws, ears, and tail tip and blazing amber eyes
Larkkit-cream colored she cat with brown paws, ears, and tail
Tawnybee- dark gray she cat with a dark ginger chest (mate- Crowstar)
Elders
Brackenwillow- golden brown tom with amber eyes
Brightpool- gray spotted tabby she cat with a scar across her left eye
Cinderstorm- ginger mackerel tabby she cat with dark brown paws
Yellowstripe- white classic tabby she cat

CloudClan
Leader
Longstar- ginger she cat with dark brown paws
Deputy
Blazefeather- light brown she cat with a ginger tail tip
Medicine Cats
Willowflower- gray tom with a light ginger muzzle (apprentice- Shadepaw)
Bouncebright- white tom with a gray face
Warriors
Gooseshine- golden brown she cat with a gray chest
Seedclaw- light ginger tom with silver ears
Leopardfur- blue-gray tom with a brown nose (apprentice- Pinepaw)
Poppynose- tortoiseshell she cat
Cedarscar- blue-gray ticked tabby she cat (apprentice- Barkpaw)
Silverthroat- calico tom
Ashstep- golden brown she cat with dark green eyes
Tigerspot- gray she cat with red eyes
Brambleflake- light brown tom with dark gray stripes
Nightberry- ginger she cat (apprentice- Rowanpaw)
Mistspirit- black tom with a brown nose and light gray stripes
Smokestrike- dark gray classic tabby she cat

Onebird- gray tom with hazel eyes
Mintdust- light gray tom with soft yellow eyes
Apprentices
-Pinepaw- dark ginger tom with light ginger patches
-Shadepaw- light gray she cat
-Rowanpaw- light brown tom with gray ears
-Barkpaw- brown she cat with a light gray tail tip
Queens
Firesky- golden brown she cat (mate- Mintdust)
Hazewind- white she cat with midnight blue eyes (mate- Willowflower)
Elders
Goldenhawk- dark brown she cat with one missing claw
Toadtooth- light ginger classic tabby tom
Spiderspots- silver tom with light green eyes
Darkbreeze- calico she cat

Characters 2

FrostClan
Leader
Hazelstar- cream she cat with a scar over her left eye
Deputy
Frosteye- dark gray she cat with a scar on her right flank
Medicine cats
Dapplewhisper- dark ginger mackerel tabby she cat (apprentice- Milkpaw)
Warriors
Echomask- brown she cat with white patches
Shadowpelt- white classic tabby she cat (apprentice- Bearpaw)
Sageleap- blue-gray spotted tabby she cat
Thornbelly- ginger tom with hazel eyes
Gorseflower- blue-gray tom with dark yellow eyes
Mudpad- golden brown she cat with amber eyes
Snowsong- dark gray tom with light ginger patches
Emberfern- white she cat with dark brown eyes
Breezesnow- gray tom with golden brown paws (apprentice- Riverpaw)
Rainspeck- brown she cat with a golden brown muzzle (apprentice- Sproutpaw)
Redtuft- dark brown tom with a white nose and black paws (apprentice- Blackpaw)
Sandlight- dark brown she cat with a black nose (apprentice- Smallpaw)
Russetblaze- light brown tom with bright blue eyes (apprentice- Flowerpaw)
Tinyeyes- golden brown she cat with pale blue eyes (apprentice- Stonepaw)
Buzzarddrop- dark ginger tom with red eyes
Brownskip- light brown tom with a scar on his left cheek (apprentice- Goosepaw)
-Cedarwish- ginger tom with light brown paws
-Treebird- ginger mackerel tabby tom
-Riverice- calico tom

Apprentices
-Stonepaw- lanky siamese tom with wide ice blue eyes and flecks of gray and black
-Flowerpaw- dark brown tom with dark brown eyes
-Bearpaw- young, sleek, black tom
-Sproutpaw- long haired golden brown tom
-Smallpaw- small brown tom with blue-green eyes
-Goosepaw- gray tom with brown paws
-Blackpaw- dark cream colored she cat with brown eyes
-Milkpaw- brown tom
Queens
Halfstream- black she cat with a cream colored muzzle (mate-Cloverfoot)
Elders
Volewatcher- cream tom with a dark brown face
Rockjaw- black tom with a brown nose
Cherrypuddle- black she cat
Stumpyfall- brown tom with soft yellow eyes
Blackleaf- silver tom with amber eyes

MoonClan
Leader
Swiftstar- gray tom with a scar on his left flank
Deputy
Kinkpool- dark ginger she cat with a brown chest (apprentice-Raggedpaw)
Medicine cats
Beechbranch- ginger tom
Heatherwater- dark brown she cat with a silver neck
Warriors
Thunderdapple- black tom with a cream colored face
Sharpsplash- cream tom with a dark brown chest (apprentice-Fawnpaw)
Brokenfeather- dark brown she cat with purple eyes
Brindlewing- brown she cat with dark green eyes
Willowbriar- silver she cat with dark yellow eyes
Owlflower- black she cat with amber eyes
Shortnose- dark brown she cat with a dark gray tail tip
Patchwillow- dark ginger she cat with one bright blue eye and one hazel eye

Littlebright- brown she cat with blue-gray stripes
Ratfire- gray tom with three missing claws
Mothshine- ginger mackerel tabby tom
Stonestorm- cream classic tabby tom
Apprentices
-Raggedpaw- light brown tabby she cat
-Fawnpaw- brown tom with a silver tail tip
Elders
Windhawk- light brown she cat with a pink nose
Scorchwind- tortoiseshell she cat
Jaggedblaze- golden brown she cat with soft yellow eyes

Characters 3

Kittypets
-Carter- young, thick-furred brown tom with a pink collar
-Willy- young siamese tom with a brown collar
Vine- black tom with a brown collar
Rosie- white she cat with small brown and gray spots, one yellow eye and one blue eye and a brown collar
Minna- calico she cat with a maroon collar
Bess- calico she cat with a black collar
Nip- bushy tailed gray she cat with bright green eyes and a teal collar
Bell- light gray she cat with orange eyes and an orange collar.

Loners
-Gemini- light blue-gray tom with mint green eyes
-Foxpaw- dark ginger she cat with hazel eyes with a purple collar and leash
-Wetwave- silver she cat with a white nose
-Troutpaw- blue-gray she cat with cream colored ears

SunClan

Former IceClan
Icestar- first leader- white tom with ice blue eyes
Thornstar- second leader- brown mackerel tabby tom
Gorsestar- third leader- gray tom with white and black patches
Buzzardpaw- former medicine cat- black she cat with orange eyes and white toes
Ebonyshell- former medicine cat- black and cream tabby she cat with light green eyes
Briarwasp- light brownish ginger tabby she cat with a black tail and paws
Maskpaw- dark brown she cat
-Leaffall- ginger tabby she cat with green eyes

Former CloudClan
Cloudstar- first leader- light ginger she cat with white patches and

sky blue eyes
Sagestar- second leader- sand colored classic tabby tom with dark green eyes
Pinesap- former medicine cat- light brown she cat
Gorseowl- former medicine cat- light gray spotted tom with light brown eyes and paws
Lionlight- former medicine cat- ginger and light ginger tabby tom
Winddawn- white tom with gray paws and a gray tail tip
-Pouncewing- dark gray she cat with dark ginger paws

Former FrostClan
Froststar- first leader- dark gray and black spotted tom
Whiskerstar- second leader- light tortoiseshell tom
Stumpypatch- former medicine cat- dark brown tom with white patches
-Featherstem- former medicine cat- gray she cat
-Snakeflame- dark cream she cat
Spiritecho- light ginger tom with white stripes
-Reedpaw- black she cat with light green eyes
Rippleswift- dark gray tom with dark blue eyes
-Cloverfoot- brown spotted tabby tom

Former MoonClan
Moonstar- first leader- blueish gray she cat with wide yellow eyes
Coalstar- second leader- black and dark gray tabby tom with yellow eyes
Foxstar- third leader- calico tom with dark green eyes
-Pebblestar- fourth leader- black she cat with gray patches
Buzzardsky- former medicine cat- black and white she cat
Specklespirit- former medicine cat- light brown speckled tom
Splashthorn- dark gray spotted tabby she cat
-Molefrost- brown tom with light brown paws
-Sunstripe- black she cat with a white nose
-Splashflight- gray tom with a ginger muzzle
-Hollypaw- light brown tom with light gray paws

Rowanpaw

As requested by Swiftflight

I made this chapter long and cute :3

Hope you like it

Rowanpaw stood, staring at the frozen pond in front of him. He thought he was supposed to be getting a drink, but the water was covered in a thick coat of ice. He glanced at Ashstep questioningly. His mentor, Nightberry, had developed greencough and the golden-brown she cat had offered to take her place until she recovered.

"We have reached a rather simple part of your training; Ice-breaking." Ashstep announced. "Now, we'll start by-"

"Ashstep! Rowanpaw! Do you mind if we join you?" Cedarscar called, darting toward them with Barkpaw struggling to catch up. The brand new apprentice was still not quite used to walking such distances.

"Sure, Why not? We're just getting started on ice-breaking." Ashstep told Cedarscar.

Barkpaw paused beside her mentor, panting heavily. "I thought we were going... on a border patrol... on the FrostClan... border."

"Ah, but ice-breaking is a basic and necessary skill. Unless you enjoy dehydration..."Cedarscar mewed. Barkpaw gasped. She took a moment to recover, then crawled to the edge of the pond.

"So what do we do?" She asked as Ashstep trotted forward to stand beside Rowanpaw. He glanced at her with questioning eyes.

"Alright... Let's try this." Ashstep paused for a bit, gathering her thoughts. "I'll demonstrate and you two will watch. Then you'll

explain to me how I did it!"

The newly-made mentors and apprentice all seemed pleased with this method of teaching. Then, Rowanpaw let out a loud puff of air, putting on an annoyed face.

"Oh, right..." Cedarscar muttered awkwardly.

"W-Well..." Ashstep mewed, stepping forward. "How about this. Barkpaw will explain how she thinks it is done. Then, you will act out her explanation and see if it works."

Once again, all but Rowanpaw agreed with this plan. ***What if her directions turn out to be completely wrong and I wind up falling into the pond? How is it fair for* me *to be punished if* she *gets it wrong?*** He opened his mouth to protest, only to remember that he couldn't.

"Let's go with it." Ashstep mewed happily.

"Barkpaw, if you where to try to break the ice in order to get a drink, what would you do?" Cedarscar asked her apprentice. Barkpaw gave her answer much thought.

"I'd step onto the ice and walk slowly toward the center of the lake. After each step, I'd test the ice to see if it's thin enough to break." She answered carefully.

"Alright. Rowanpaw, give it a try." Ashstep meowed. Rowanpaw let out another puff of air. ***Sounds like a waste of time to me,*** he thought. ***Why not just go straight to the center? I can see it from here. There's no ice there.***

Deciding that Barkpaw must have been wrong, Rowanpaw trotted toward the hole in the center of the ice, not bothering to test the ice along the way.

"That isn't what I told you to do!" Barkpaw yowled. Beside her, the mentors prepared to dart out after him.

Bothered by what he thought was an overreaction, Rowanpaw waved his tail dismissively through the air as it to say, 'It's fine' or

'Don't worry'. But his message turned out to be false. As Ashstep and Cedarscar crawled toward Rowanpaw, a loud creak echoed through the air.

Perking his ears his ears in an attempt to locate the source of the sound, Rowanpaw hardly noticed as the ice broke beneath him. Feeling himself fall, he opened his mouth in a silent cry for help. As he slipped lower and lower beneath the ice, Rowanpaw found himself attempting to form the sound of a name. Not Shortnose or Goldenhawk, not Barkpaw, Hollypaw, Fawnpaw, or Raggedpaw, not Nightberry or Ashstep, but Shadepaw. All he wanted in that moment was the comfort of her soft fur and sweet scent. All he wanted was the calming look in her blue eyes, the thought of knowing that she was there to protect him. He opened his eyes, wincing as cold water rushed into them. He could hardly see Cedarscar as she plunged in after him. The sight of her grayish fur almost made him think that his protector had come to save him.

Shadepaw... I'm sorry we don't spend time together anymore... I... I want to see you again... I need to see you again... He thought as his eyes closed and the air left his lungs.

Shadepaw...

.....

.....

.....

"Rowanpaw!"

The cry of a familiar voice reached his ears as Rowanpaw burst out of the water, gasping for air. Cedarscar dragged him along the ice

as he desperately tried to open his eyes. Once he was able to, he saw that he was on the shore already. Right in front of him was Barkpaw who looked terrified, Ashstep who was panting heavily, and Cedarscar who was dripping wet. But even though the three of them where in front of him, he felt two tongues licking the pond water from his fur.

"We need to get him to our den. Quickly. Otherwise, he may end up like his first mentor..." A deep voice mewed ominously. Rowanpaw lifted his head weekly and turned to see Willowflower, one of the three medicine cats.

If he's here, then... Rowanpaw turned his head a bit more and saw the cat who had called out his name.

Shadepaw!

Instantly, he leaped up and curled into her side, shivering. His breathing slowed as the world around his seemed to melt away until all that was left was her sweet scent and the warmth of her fur. Smiling, she began smoothing the fur that was standing up along his spine.

"Don't scare me like that!" She scolded playfully.

"Let's get him to the medicine den. You too, Cedarscar." Willowflower commanded, leading the three cat's away. Rowanpaw did not leave Shadepaw's side the whole way back.

Carter

Carter leaped off his fence and stretched, ready for a walk around town. He hadn't gone far when he noticed a sheet of paper stuck to a wooden pole. He stood and looked at it for a while, finally recognizing the cat in the photo.

"That's Willy, isn't it?" He asked aloud. "I'd better go ask Rosie and Vine what happened." He hurried off toward the house where the lived a leaped over the fence without pausing at the top, landing uncomfortably in the unusually shallow snow.

"Rosie?" He called. "Vine?"

"Carter?" Rosie called back. She darted toward him with Vine right behind her. "Thank goodness! Have you seen Willy?" She asked anxiously, glancing over Carter's shoulder and up at the fence as if expecting him to appear.

"Sorry, Rosie, I Haven't." He sighed. "So I guess you don't know what happened either..."

"Oh, we know what happened." Roise muttered. "We know perfectly well."

Carter perked his ears in interest. Vine noticed. "That dumb Siamese finally went off to join a clan, how he always said he would." He growled. This made Carter more interested.

"A clan? Did he tell you which one?" He asked, hoping it was the one Teddybear had joined. Looking for Willy would give him a reason to visit his old friend.

"No, but he said something about a river... why? Are you gonna go looking for him?" Vine asked.

"Yeah, why not?" Carter shrugged. He fought not to show the

excitement welling up inside him. He didn't know where the river was, but he hoped in wound through the territory closest to the Twolegplace. That way, he would be able to see Teddybear and he wouldn't have to wonder too far away from home.

"Oh, thank you, thank you, thank you!" Rosie mewed, darting forward to rub her face against his. "Comeback and tell us everything he tells you as soon as possible okay?"

Calling a goodbye over his shoulder, Carter leaped over the fence and darted off toward home. Deciding that he wasn't quite ready to go yet, he ate the food his housefolk had left out and curled up in his fluffy bed for a nap.

(Sorry it's so short! Just wanted to get something else out before I go to bed. I'll try to update again tomorrow!)

Grayshadow

Grayshadow stood between Fernwhisker and Sootface. Both of them were bristling and snarling fiercely. Alarmed, he turned to his brother, Rippleberry, to see what he'd do next.
"We're taking this back, wether you like it or not." The tom snarled, indicating with his tail at the small section of forest owned by CloudClan.
"And who are you to make that decision?" Meowed a she cat who Grayshadow recognized as the CloudClan warrior Ashstep. "I don't see Crowstar or Waterspots here. Do you have orders?" She asked calmly.
"I don't need orders." Rippleberry hissed, taking a threatening step forward.
"Brother..." Grayshadow whispered in a warning tone. Ashstep's patrol stepped forward protectively.
"Let's take care of these intruders." Seedclaw hissed, unsheathing his claws. Tigerspot joined him, but Rowanpaw held back. Grayshadow stared at the apprentice with curiosity. Usually apprentices would be encouraging the battle, wanting to test out their claws. ***Why isn't he saying anything?***
"Bring it on!" His brother yowled. "With that useless apprentice on your side, you may as well be outnumbered." He added with a smug grin. The apprentice looked stung for a moment before unsheathing his claws and stepping forward. But still, no retaliation escaped his mouth. Not even so much as a growl or a snarl. Just... Silence. This interested Grayshadow greatly. So greatly, in fact, that he didn't even notice as Rippleberry launched himself at Tigerspot.
Within heartbeats, every cat from either patrol was tearing at each other. Startled out of his trance, he found himself locked in battle with Rowanpaw. All instincts told him to fight with all his strength, but instead he found himself sheathing his claws, so as not to harm the young cat. Rolling over so that he had the apprentice pinned beneath him, he stared down at the young cat.
"This battle should not have happened." He murmured. "Rippleberry is foolish... I shall make sure Crowstar punishes him for this."
As always, the small cat stayed silent. But as his blue eyes met

Grayshadow's, he nodded.
"Need any help?" Sootface called, running toward Grayshadow with extended claws. Without thinking, Grayshadow leaped off of Rowanpaw and slammed into Sootface's side, knocking him over. Raising his hackles and baring his teeth, Grayshadow stood defensively in front of Rowanpaw. Glancing over his shoulder at the apprentice, Grayshadow saw that he was smaller than he had originally thought. ***I'd say he was only apprenticed today, but I've seen him at two gatherings... Was he apprenticed early? No... CloudClan are strict rule followers. He's a runt, then. Poor thing...***
"What was that for?" Sootface howled, leaping up. "Did you mistake me for a CloudClan cat? Or did you forget that you yourself are an IceClan cat?"
Grayshadow turned his attention away from Rowanpaw, who had gotten up and was cowering behind him, clearly overwhelmed.
"Have you lost your mind?" He cried, trying to remain calm. "This battle... It's pointless! How can you possibly think this is okay? You're orders came from a junior warrior! You're a senior warrior!" Grayshadow hissed, glancing sympathetically over his shoulder at Rowanpaw every few heartbeats. "You're right... This battle..." Sootface paused and turned toward Fernwhisker. "Fernwhisker, we should-"
Rowanpaw padded out from behind Grayshadow, eager to see what had made Sootface break off mid-sentence. His eyes widened and he began to back away slowly. This reaction made Grayshadow follow his gaze to see for himself.
"No... Rippleberry... What have you done!?"
The CloudClan cats had gone. All but Seedclaw. Rippleberry stood over the body of the light ginger warrior, chest heaving, eyes full of hate.
This should never have happened... "You had no right to do this!" Grayshadow's cry echoed through the forest as he bounded forward, instinctively launching himself at his brother with outstretched claws.

Rippleberry

Rippleberry dodged to the side and watched his brother flop down on the snow covered ground. "And to think just sunrises ago, I was thinking we'd be able to train Eaglekit and Larkkit together. A shame that won't be able to happen. We want IceClan cats to learn to be loyal and clearly you have not." He growled, staring down at Grayshadow with a cold gaze.
"You won't get away with this." Grayshadow responded, staggering to his paws. "I'll tell Crowstar."
"Oh, *I'll tell Crowstar!*" Rippleberry mocked. "No one likes a tattletale."
Crowstar prefers me over you anyway, he added silently. ***He won't believe you.***
"Take the apprentice." He snarled demandingly. Fernwhisker shook her head vigorously while Sootface stood motionless, his face showing no emotion. Rippleberry couldn't help but growl at the smug look on his brother's face. He was clearly proud of his former mentors courage. ***This will not go unpunished...***
"Get to work!" He shouted. "Or there will be consequences!"
All at once Fernwhisker turned and sprinted off, Rippleberry unsheathed his claws, Rowanpaw collapsed in fear, and Sootface and Grayshadow charged toward the apprentice. Sootface reached him first. A cry of defiance slipped from Grayshadow's jaws as Rippleberry pushed him down into the snow.
He fought to keep his brother under control and eventually let him stand. But by then, Sootface had dragged the still-silent apprentice out of sight.
"Say one word to Crowstar and the apprentice gets it." Rippleberry snarled in Grayshadow's ear. This empty threat seemed to be enough, as Grayshadow's eyes clouded over and he closed his mouth.
"You... You can't get away with this... Longstar will reveal the truth." He murmured. Rippleberry glanced up sharply at this comment. ***Today has shown just how highly he thinks of CloudClan... That could be worth keeping in mind.***
Kicking the body over the border, he trotted toward camp. His

brother followed more slowly.

"What is this?" Called Crowstar as the patrol returned.
"We found this CloudClan apprentice deep within our borders. We thought we should bring him to you so you could decide what to do with him." He lied. He glanced around, making sure no one was trying to disprove him. Fernwhisker was nowhere to be seen, Sootface was nodding in agreement, and Grayshadow was trying desperately to hold his tongue. Then Rippleberry's eyes fell on the apprentice. He looked scared and confused, yet he did not try to disprove Rippleberry's claims. ***He's certainly making this easy on me.***
"Keep him here for now. Grayshadow, you guard him." Crowstar demanded.
"Yes sir." Replied Grayshadow who was clearly trying to hide his relief.
"Rippleberry, come speak with me in my den."
Rippleberry forced the fur along his spine to lay flat. ***Can he tell I'm lying?*** Cautiously, he followed the leader to his den. While Crowstar got comfortable in his nest, Rippleberry attempted to calm himself.
"I continue to admire how observant you are." The leader mewed encouragingly.
"Thank you, Crowstar." He responded, stifling a purr. "So... What did you call me here for?"
"I wanted to ask you what *you* thought we should do with the apprentice. You wouldn't bring him him here unless you had a plan, right?"
Rippleberry drew a deep breath. "I thought we could tell CloudClan that we'd only give him back in exchange for the section of forest they took us a few moons before my birth." He suggested.
"Good idea. I'll think about it." Crowstar yawned, waving Rippleberry out of his den. He smiled and turned away, unable to hide the pride he felt. ***This is going just as planned...***

Wetwave

Pushing through the undergrowth, Wetwave forced herself to keep moving. She was weak with grief but she knew she had a lot of ground to cover if she wanted to catch up with Foxpaw.
How do I even know Smallpaw was right? She asked herself, pausing for a brief heartbeat. Shaking her head, she began moving again. ***What he said made a lot of sense... Even if he was wrong, I have to try. I don't know anything for sure.***
Once she was out in the open, Wetwave flopped down onto the ground. Though she kept telling herself to keep moving, she could not. Grief was swelling up in her heart and no matter how hard she tried, she could not forget her clan.
Riverice...
She scolded herself for thinking about a murderer and pushed herself to her paws again. ***I have to find Foxpaw. I'll do it as one final mission for my clan. Once I return her to her home, I'll find a home of my own.***
Excited by the thought, Wetwave began to search the area, sniffing the air. Her paws led her blindly through the forest until, at last, she picked up a stale scent. It wasn't one she recognized, but she followed it anyway. Soon enough, she came across a clearing. It was full of the old scent of two cats- the one she had been tracking and one that was somewhat familiar. There was a tree with a dip beneath it that looked as if it had been slept in and the remains of prey in the middle of the clearing.
Intrigued by the familiar scent, she crawled forward. On the far side of the clearing she noticed some sort of trail in the snow, bathed in the vaguely familiar scent. As she followed the snake-like track that was surrounded by two sets of paw prints, Wetwave suddenly recognized the stale scent.
"Foxpaw!" She cried aloud. She jumped, startled by the sound of her own voice. She hadn't spoken out loud since the day she left. She sighed, sitting down for a moment. How long had it been? Two sunrises? Three? Four? Five? She couldn't remember. Shaking her head, she got up and continued to follow the trail of stale scent.

A few sunrises later, she came up to a cliff with a beautiful valley displayed at the bottom of it. The sight of it captivated her, so much so that she didn't even notice the crunch of snow as a creature approach her until it was too late. Spinning around, she saw a twoleg couple approaching her, calling out to her in soothing tones. They looked concerned.
Hissing, Wetwave took a step back. She shrieked, feeling the ground break away beneath her back paws. She tried and failed to regain her footing and soon the rest of her body began to follow her back legs over the edge. ***I'm going to fall!***
At the last second, the male twoleg leaped forward and grabbed her, pulling her into his arms and out of harms way. Shocked, Wetwave went limp and stared at the cliffs edge over the twoleg's shoulder as he walked toward the Twolegplace with the female twoleg at his side.
Finally understanding what had just happened, Wetwave wrapped her forelegs around twoleg's neck and licked his nose to show her thanks. The twolegs began cooing at her, caressing her ears and stroking her head, but her mind was still lingering on the image that had flashed unto her mind at what could have been the last moment of her life. She was sitting just outside the FrostClan camp, watching the sunrise. She felt a presence beside her and she didn't have to look over to know who it was.
Riverice...

Rowanpaw

Rowanpaw sat in the den that had been built for him in the corner of the camp furthest from the entrance. It was small and made of bushes filled with thorns. The floor was damp from the melting snow that had not been cleared away and, since they had not bothered to make him a nest, the damp had been making him sick. He stared absently through the entrance of his den, poking his face through the vines that blocked off the entrance. The camp was silent and bathed in moonlight. Aside from Rowanpaw's sniffles, no sound could be heard.

He was beginning to feel drowsy when movement caught his eye. His guard slowly got to his paws and darted silently toward the Medicine den. The figure re-emerged heartbeats later with another figure beside it. This second figure seemed to be holding something. As they drew closer to his den, he began to recognize them. It was Sorrelwing, one of the three medicine cats. The other was the gray warrior who had taken pity on him and who had been guarding him since.

In the quarter-moon Rowanpaw had spent here, Grayshadow had been doing all he could to make Rowanpaw more comfortable while also pretending he didn't care about the prisoner. If he were caught helping Rowanpaw, there would be consequences. This was the only reason why had hadn't set the apprentice free yet.

"Rowanpaw? Are you awake?" Sorrelwing asked in a whisper.

He stuck his head through the vines again and looked up at her.

"I brought these to help make you feel better." She explained, gesturing at the herbs she had placed in the snow just outside his den. She picked them up and passed them to him. He ate them quickly and looked up at Sorrelwing, hoping his eyes showed how thankful he was. Purring, she flicked her tail and darted back to her den. Once she had disappeared, Grayshadow glanced around the clearing. No one had noticed. They were all still asleep.

"I am truly sorry this happened to you." Grayshadow murmured, touching his nose to Rowanpaw's. "I'd save you if I could. I'll admit that I leave you here for selfish reasons. Who knows what would happen to me if I let you escape? I am supposed to be your guard,

after all." He sighed.
If Rowanpaw could talk, he would tell Grayshadow not to feel bad. If Rowanpaw could talk, he would thank Grayshadow for taking care of him. If he could talk, he would tell Grayshadow that he didn't want him to get in trouble either.
But he couldn't talk.
Instead, he stared solemnly at the empty clearing, glowing white in the moonlight, behind Grayshadow.
"Why won't you say anything?" Grayshadow mewed, sounding somewhat annoyed.
He shuffled his paws.
"Can you even speak?"
He continued to shuffle his paws. After a few heartbeats, he shook his head.
"You can't speak..." Grayshadow whispered. Rowanpaw shifted his gaze so that their eyes met. He saw pity and sorrow in the warriors eyes, and he began to mirror those emotions. To have to act out in secret, to have to defy the rules of your own brother! Grayshadow was really trying, wasn't he?
"You better get some sleep." The warrior mewed. He turned away from Rowanpaw and lay stretched out in the snow, facing the empty clear.
Curling up awkwardly on the uncomfortable ground, he slipped into a fitful sleep, waking up every once in a while and checking to see if his guard was still there. And he always was. Stretched out in the same position, unwilling to close his eyes until the morning guard arrived.

Willy

Willy was out doing his daily hunting when he noticed an IceClan hunting patrol.
"Can I join you guys?" He asked, trotting up to Dustspring. He tried to hide his confusion as Dustspring glanced over at Rippleberry, seemingly asking permission. Rippleberry gave a slight nod and set off again.
"That means yes." Stripepaw whispered and Willy stood rooted to the ground, unsure if he should follow. He stifled a purr upon noticing her.
"We'll be hunting on the other side of the river." Rippleberry meowed over his shoulder. Willy saw Applecloud cringe and remembered the story he had shared about when he had crossed the river as an apprentice and barely made it.
Stripepaw, Willy, and Applecloud chatted the whole way, receiving occasional glares from Dustspring and Clouddapple. Rippleberry, however, didn't seem that bothered. He just flattened his ears and moved on.
Soon enough, the patrol reached the frozen river. Rippleberry was the first to test it out. Willy flicked an, attempting to remain quiet. He glanced at Dustspring. Shouldn't the leader of the patrol go first? Or was Rippleberry really the leader of the patrol? Surely they wouldn't put a junior warrior in charge of a hunting patrol, right? Rippleberry stepped cautiously onto the ice, glancing from side to side.
"Seems safe." He called, trotting safely to the other side. "Who's next?"
Dustspring glanced at Applecloud, who was visibly terrified. "Maybe you and Stripepaw should cross together." He suggested. Stripepaw nodded in agreement.
"I'll protect you!" She purred teasingly. Applecloud looked away, seeming slightly embarrassed. Willy glared at him. ***Why can't* I *escort Stripepaw?***
"Let's all cross together!" He suggested happily, bouncing forward to stand on her other side.
"I don't know if that's such a good idea..." Applecloud murmured.

"Oh, come on!" Stripepaw huffed. "It'll be fine."
"On the count of three. One... Two... Tree!"
At the last word, the three of them darted forward. Not a heartbeat later, the ice gave beneath the weight of the three cats and Willy was plunged into the cold water.
"Willy!" Stripepaw yowled, spinning around to try to grab his scruff. But before she could get to him, Applecloud dragged her to the other side of the river.
"It's too dangerous!" He hissed. Stripepaw simply nodded and stayed put while Applecloud ran back to the hole in the ice. But by the time he reached it, he saw that Clouddapple had leaped into the water and swimming down toward the bottom of the river where Willy's body was caught up on large boulder, the current tugged at his fur and attempting to whisk him away. Applecloud watched in terrified awe as Clouddapple grabbed hold of the young cat and tugged him away from the boulder.
"Pull him out!" She gasped through a mouthful of cream fur. Without hesitation, Applecloud pulled Willy out of the water and passed his limp body to Dustspring, who had leap across the gap and was waiting beside the junior warrior. Dustspring began to drag Willy to the other side of the river while Applecloud turned back to help Clouddapple.
"No..."
He froze.
The patch of water in front of him was empty.
"Clouddapple!"
Applecloud stood rooted to the ground in shock as Rippleberry leaped back onto the ice, chasing after a dark ginger blob, barely visible under the ice.
"I can't lose another warrior!" Rippleberry yowled, bashing his forepaws into the ice over and over until his pads bled. "Foxdung! The ice is thicker here..."
He flopped down onto the ice, watched the dark ginger blob that everyone knew must be Clouddapple as it was washed out of sight.

Pinepaw

"I, Longstar, leader of CloudClan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down upon this apprentice." Longstar began, staring up at the sky, chest swelling with pride in her son. Pinepaw's gaze, too, was cast toward the sky. ***Can you see me, Pouncewing? Are you watching? I'm gonna be a warrior!***
"He has trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code and I commend him to you as a warrior in his turn." Mother and son both lowered their gazes until they locked eyes.
"Pinepaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and protect and defend this clan, even at the cost of your life?"
"I do."
"Then, by the powers of SunClan, I give you your warrior name. Pinepaw, from this moment on you will be known as Pinepounce. SunClan honors your loyalty and determination and we welcome you as a full warrior of CloudClan."
Pinepounce closed his eyes and waited for the cheering to start. And it did... But it started slowly and seemed unenthusiastic. And when it stopped, the crowd did not disperse. ***What's going on?***
Willowflower stepped forward and glanced awkwardly around, unsure if it was okay for him to speak. "It seems I am speaking for many when I ask... Do you really think this is a good idea, Longstar?"
Pinepounce flicked and ear and stared at the gray tom in shock. ***Is he questioning my right to become a warrior?*** A low growl echoed in his throat. "I aced my assessment, fair and square!"
"I don't think that is what he meant." Darkbreeze murmured, shaking her head.
"Right. He was asking if giving you that *name* was such a good idea." Hazewind explained.
He glanced questioningly at his mother.
"It is true that I named him after his departed friend..."
Did you hear that, Pouncewing? I'm named after you!
"...and I can see how that would upset some of you..."
"Well, I can't!"
Brambleflake glanced at him sympathetically. "I don't get it either..."

He murmured. A few of the cats who had been protesting Pinepounce's new name backed away after seeing the look on the face of Pouncewing's father.
"It's just..." Poppynose took a deep breath before continuing. "The memory of a loved one is meant to be honored. But that doesn't mean another cat should be forced to live for both of them. We should treasure the memories we have of Pouncewing, not look at it as if she simply... Merged with Pinepounce or something."
Suddenly, a wave of anger washed over him.
"Why can't I just share part of a name with her? Why does being named after her make her part of me? I'm honored to be named after such a wonderful cat, but it doesn't mean I'm living on in her place!" He scanned the crowd through scornful eyes. "Why can't anyone ever just be happy for me!"
With that, he turned and burst though the entrance.
With nowhere else to go, he sprinted over the snow-dusted moor toward the forest at the edge of their territory. It was unclaimed and home to multiple families of badgers and foxes.
Every time I do anything notable, Pouncewing comes up! No one can just give me credit and be done with it! For a moment he regretted the thought. He normally would have been happy to live on for the both of them... ***But it was my warrior ceremony! And nobody cared...***
He slowed to a stop and wallowed in his sadness for a moment before standing and trotting forward slowly again. Then, suddenly, he stopped again. ***I've gone to far...*** He spun around in panic. All he could see in every direction was snow covered forest. Fighting back panic, he darted off in what he thought was the right direction. Little did he know, he was heading away from his territory at top speed.
He felt panic rise in his chest as the scent of badger hit his nose. He ran faster than he ever had, wanting to be anywhere except where he was now. Without any warning, a creature leaped out of the undergrowth, slamming into his side and knocking them both to the ground. Pinepounce lashed out in terror until a voice reached his ears.
"Stop it, mousebrain! I'm no badger!"
Pinepounce froze and the two broke away and stared at each other.
This creature... It's a cat! And... it's one I know!

Fuzzyfoot

"She... What?"
"She drowned."
Fuzzyfoot stared in horror at his brother, one of the two cats left in the world that he cared about. First his sister, then his mother... And now his former mentor.
"Why does SunClan hate me?" He mewed sadly, turning to pad slowly toward the Warriors den. He knew the sight of him like that, head down and tail dragging through the snow, must have broken his brothers heart. He heard a sharp sigh just before he slipped through the den's entrance. He was no doubt remembering how their mother had fought with an unknown sickness before finally succumbing to it only a few sunrises ago.
Fuzzyfoot curled up in what was once Clouddapple's nest, holding back his sadness. He had done the same with the nests of both Tallsplash and Troutpaw. His eyes were sliding shut and had nearly closed fully when he realized what a clear view this nest had of the clearing. Lifting his head, he peered out, aware of the feeling of being watched. It didn't take long for him to notice the silent brown apprentice watching him solemnly through the vines that imprisoned him. Unnerved by the silence of the CloudClan apprentice, Fuzzyfoot stood and slipped out of the den. Spotting Applecloud, he trotted forward and poked him with his muzzle in order to get his attention.
"What is it, Fuzzyfoot?" His brother asked, flicking his ears.
"May I see her body?" Fuzzyfoot asked in a quiet murmur. The look that washed over his brothers face made him uneasy.
"About that..." The dark gray warrior bit his lip. "She was washed away beneath the ice. We tried to retrieve her body, but..."
"What?" Sadness surged through Fuzzyfoot. "You... You didn't get her body out?"
Before his brother could say another word, he darted out of the camp and off toward the river. Following the patrol's scent, he tracked his way to the hole in the ice where his former mentor had last been seen. Fuzzyfoot darted off along the edge of the river, looking for any sign of a dark ginger body, until he found himself at

the border with MoonClan.
Maybe the ice is too thick... Or maybe her body continued drifting into MoonClan territory... Either way, I have to find her.
Without putting much thought into his actions, Fuzzyfoot padded back to the hole in the ice. Taking a deep breath and sending a short prayer to SunClan, Fuzzyfoot leaped into the ice cold water. As soon as the water closed over Fuzzyfoot's head, he realized his mistake. Desperately, he fought against the current. The water clogged his long fur, making his body heavy and difficult to maneuver through the river. ***I was never a good swimmer, I know that. What was I thinking?***
He managed to poke his head into a few air bubbles along the way, but he knew he was just prolonging the inevitable. Listing over and over the names of his loved ones in his head, Fuzzyfoot gave up struggling and went limp. As his consciousness faded, he bumped against something soft, freeing it from the root it had been snagged on. Forcing himself to open his eyes a bit, he saw another body being swept along beside him.
Clouddapple..?
With the last of his strength, Fuzzyfoot stretched out his neck to grab hold of her scruff. He then wrapped his forepaws around her and held her tight, shutting his eyes and burying his face in her fur.
At least now neither of us will have to be alone...
With that last thought, Fuzzyfoot lost consciousness.
Together, mentor and apprentice, the two dark ginger warriors of IceClan drifted on and on and on until their spirits awoke in a better place, bathed in sunshine, laying side by side.

Gorgepaw

"That is enough!"
The clan fell silent, panic still clear in their eyes.
"Three lives have been taken in ways that evolved Willy! Don't you all see? He's bad luck!" Gorgepaw yowled. Cats all across the clearing voiced their agreement. Seeing that some still looked skeptical, he decided to explain the dream he had received.
"Don't you see? These deaths were planned to start as soon as he arrived! If he hadn't shown up, Leaffall, Clouddapple, and Fuzzyfoot would still be alive! As long as he's here, cats will continue to die!"
The golden-brown apprentice whipped around to face Applecloud.
"Including you!"
"It's true!" Sorrelwing called from the edge of the group.
"Can confirm." Bluefire added, nodded.
"But what can we do about it?" Brightpool rasped.
"We'll, we could drive him out..."
"But who's to say he won't come back?" Cinderstorm pointed out.
"He's a kittypet, right?" Asked Sorrelwing. "We could try sending him back to his Twolegs..."
"But how would we know which Twolegs are his?" Clawtail called.
"Maybe he'll tell us." Applecloud meowed.
"No way he'll tell us!" Yowled Robinfall. Gorgepaw smirked. Only giving her warrior name a few sunrises ago and already his sister had more sense than Applecloud!
The crowd erupted with noise as the cats began shouting suggestions and arguing among themselves.
"Silence!" Crowstar cried. The cats closed their mouths and turned to face him. "What do you think we should do, Rippleberry?"
The question unnerved many cats, particularly Grayshadow. But still, all the cats turned to face him.
"Let's just kill him."
Various emotions surged through the crowd as they turned back to Crowstar, who shrugged.
"Let it be done!"
With a round of loud yowls, a patrol of cats immediately set off after Rippleberry.

"They're headed for Willy's nest... We need to stop them!" Stripepaw cried, darting off after them. A few others followed, Grayshadow and the medicine cats among them. Oddly enough, Gorgepaw was not following in order to help. Rather, he just wanted to watch the outcome. After all, would it not be better for the clan if Willy was gone..?
"Come out of their murderer!" Rippleberry was hissing as they arrived.
"Like you're one to talk." Grayshadow growled under his breath.
Rippleberry flicked an ear, perhaps as a way of showing that he had heard the insult.
"Huh? What's going on?" Willy asked sleepily, pulling himself out of him den. His pelt still smelled or river water, though it was mostly dry now.
"It would take too long to explain." Rippleberry growled. "Time to reap what you've sown."
He raised a paw, claws glinting in the weak sunlight. Willy's eyes stretched wide in terror.
It was the most shocked Stripepaw had ever looked.
She seemed even more upset than she had the day she had been told her mother was dead.
"You can't kill him!"
It was the loudest she had ever screamed.
"You really do love him..." Applecloud murmured. He shut his eyes and let out a breath. Gorgepaw didn't have to try hard to guess what he was thinking. His mother was dead. His siblings were dead. And now he found out that the one he loved loves someone else. The least he could do was die in a way that made her happy.
And so, he did.
Leaping forward at the last heartbeat, he took the death blow that was meant for Willy.
"It is done."
Bluefire's meow rang out around the clearing.
"The last death that Willy was meant to cause. It has occurred."

Characters

IceClan
Leader
Crowstar- dark brown tom with golden-brown cheeks
Deputy
Waterspots- black tom with pale blue eyes
Medicine Cats
Sorrelwing- brown she cat with a gray belly (apprentice- Gorgepaw)
Bluefire- silver ticked tabby she cat
Warriors
Sootface- blue-gray tom with pale blue eyes
Mouseflight- golden brown tabby tom
Specklecloud- dark ginger spotted tabby tom (apprentice- Pinepaw)
Pricklesplash- white tom
Sparrowtalon- tortoiseshell she cat (apprentice- Robinpaw)
Robinmist- blue-gray tom
Clawtail- dark gray she cat with brown ears
Foxfrost- cream tom with a golden-brown neck
Fernwhisker- tortoiseshell ticked tabby she cat
Thrushburr- blue-gray tom with dark gray patches
Weaselheart- gray tom with a white nose
Milkshade- light ginger she cat with amber eyes
Runningrabbit- brown tom with golden brown ears
Dustspring- golden brown tom with midnight blue eyes (apprentice- Stripepaw)
-Grayshadow- light gray tom with a light brown tail tip
-Rippleberry- dark gray spotted tabby tom
-Robinfall- brown she cat with amber eyes
Apprentices
-Gorgepaw- golden-brown tom, missing his claws
-Pinepaw- dark ginger she cat with a black nose
-Stripepaw- white she cat with black patches and light ginger patches with faint stripes
Queens
Flowerbriar- light brown she cat with ginger paws (mate- Pricklesplash)

-Eaglekit- white tom with brown paws, ears, and tail tip and blazing amber eyes
-Larkkit-cream colored she cat with brown paws, ears, and tail
Tawnybee- dark gray she cat with a dark ginger chest (mate- Crowstar)
-Applekit- golden she cat with brown spots
-Groundkit- brown tom with one blue eye and one green eye
Morningfang- light ginger she cat with red eyes (mate- Weaselheart)
Elders
Brackenwillow- golden brown tom with amber eyes
Brightpool- gray spotted tabby she cat with a scar across her left eye
Cinderstorm- ginger mackerel tabby she cat with dark brown paws
Yellowstripe- white classic tabby she cat

CloudClan
Leader
Longstar- ginger she cat with dark brown paws
Deputy
Blazefeather- light brown she cat with a ginger tail tip
Medicine Cats
Willowflower- gray tom with a light ginger muzzle (apprentice- Shadepaw)
Bouncebright- white tom with a gray face
Warriors
Gooseshine- golden brown she cat with a gray chest
Leopardfur- blue-gray tom with a brown nose (apprentice- Pinepaw)
Poppynose- tortoiseshell she cat
Cedarscar- blue-gray ticked tabby she cat (apprentice- Barkpaw)
Silverthroat- calico tom
Ashstep- golden brown she cat with dark green eyes (apprentice- Rowanpaw)
Tigerspot- gray she cat with red eyes
Brambleflake- light brown tom with dark gray stripes
Nightberry- ginger she cat
Mistspirit- black tom with a brown nose and light gray stripes
Smokestrike- dark gray classic tabby she cat
Onebird- gray tom with hazel eyes
Mintdust- light gray tom with soft yellow eyes
-Pinepounce- dark ginger tom with light ginger patches

Apprentices
-Shadepaw- light gray she cat
-Rowanpaw- light brown tom with gray ears
-Barkpaw- brown she cat with a light gray tail tip
Queens
Firesky- golden brown she cat (mate- Mintdust)
-Lilackit- dark gray she cat with purple eyes
-Lightkit- light gray she cat with blue eyes
-Smokekit- brownish-black tom with blue eyes
Hazewind- white she cat with midnight blue eyes (mate- Willowflower)
Elders
Goldenhawk- dark brown she cat with one missing claw
Toadtooth- light ginger classic tabby tom
Spiderspots- silver tom with light green eyes
Darkbreeze- calico she cat

Characters 2

FrostClan
Leader
Froststar- dark gray she cat with a scar on her right flank
Deputy
Mudpad- golden brown she cat with amber eyes
Medicine cats
Dapplewhisper- dark ginger mackerel tabby she cat (apprentice- Milkpaw)
Warriors
Echomask- brown she cat with white patches
Shadowpelt- white classic tabby she cat (apprentice- Bearpaw)
Sageleap- blue-gray spotted tabby she cat
Thornbelly- ginger tom with hazel eyes
Gorseflower- blue-gray tom with dark yellow eyes
Snowsong- dark gray tom with light ginger patches
Emberfern- white she cat with dark brown eyes
Breezesnow- gray tom with golden brown paws
Rainspeck- brown she cat with a golden brown muzzle (apprentice- Sproutpaw)
Redtuft- dark brown tom with a white nose and black paws (apprentice- Blackpaw)
Sandlight- dark brown she cat with a black nose (apprentice- Smallpaw)
Russetblaze- light brown tom with bright blue eyes (apprentice- Flowerpaw)
Tinyeyes- golden brown she cat with pale blue eyes (apprentice- Stonepaw)
Buzzarddrop- dark ginger tom with red eyes
Brownskip- light brown tom with a scar on his left cheek (apprentice- Goosepaw)
-Cedarwish- ginger tom with light brown paws
-Treebird- ginger mackerel tabby tom
Apprentices
-Stonepaw- lanky siamese tom with wide ice blue eyes and flecks of gray and black

-Flowerpaw- dark brown tom with dark brown eyes
-Bearpaw- young, sleek, black tom
-Sproutpaw- long haired golden brown tom
-Smallpaw- small brown tom with blue-green eyes
-Goosepaw- gray tom with brown paws
-Blackpaw- dark cream colored she cat with brown eyes
-Milkpaw- brown tom
Queens
Halfstream- black she cat with a cream colored muzzle (mate-Cloverfoot)
Hazelstar- cream she cat with a scar over her left eye (mate-Thornbelly)
Elders
Volewatcher- cream tom with a dark brown face
Rockjaw- black tom with a brown nose
Cherrypuddle- black she cat
Stumpyfall- brown tom with soft yellow eyes
Blackleaf- silver tom with amber eyes

MoonClan
Leader
Swiftstar- gray tom with a scar on his left flank
Deputy
Kinkpool- dark ginger she cat with a brown chest (apprentice-Raggedpaw)
Medicine cats
Beechbranch- ginger tom
Heatherwater- dark brown she cat with a silver neck
Warriors
Thunderdapple- black tom with a cream colored face
Sharpsplash- cream tom with a dark brown chest (apprentice-Fawnpaw)
Brokenfeather- dark brown she cat with purple eyes
Brindlewing- brown she cat with dark green eyes
Willowbriar- silver she cat with dark yellow eyes
Owlflower- black she cat with amber eyes
Shortnose- dark brown she cat with a dark gray tail tip
Patchwillow- dark ginger she cat with one bright blue eye and one hazel eye
Littlebright- brown she cat with blue-gray stripes

Ratfire- gray tom with three missing claws
Mothshine- ginger mackerel tabby tom
Stonestorm- cream classic tabby tom
Apprentices
-Raggedpaw- light brown tabby she cat
-Fawnpaw- brown tom with a silver tail tip
Elders
Windhawk- light brown she cat with a pink nose
Scorchwind- tortoiseshell she cat
Jaggedblaze- golden brown she cat with soft yellow eyes

Characters 3

Kittypets
Vine- black tom with a brown collar
Rosie- white she cat with small brown and gray spots, one yellow eye and one blue eye and a brown collar
Minna- calico she cat with a maroon collar
Bess- calico she cat with a black collar
Nip- bushy tailed gray she cat with bright green eyes and a teal collar
-Bell- light gray she cat with orange eyes and an orange collar.

Loners
-Foxpaw- dark ginger she cat with hazel eyes with a purple collar and leash
-Wetwave- silver she cat with a white nose
-Troutpaw- blue-gray she cat with cream colored ears
-Carter- young, thick-furred brown tom with a pink collar
-Riverice- calico tom

Rouges
-Willy- young siamese tom with a brown collar
-Gemini- light blue-gray tom with mint green eyes

SunClan

Former IceClan
Icestar- first leader- white tom with ice blue eyes
Thornstar- second leader- brown mackerel tabby tom
Gorsestar- third leader- gray tom with white and black patches
Buzzardpaw- former medicine cat- black she cat with orange eyes and white toes
Ebonyshell- former medicine cat- black and cream tabby she cat with light green eyes
Briarwasp- light brownish ginger tabby she cat with a black tail and paws
Maskpaw- dark brown she cat
-Leaffall- ginger tabby she cat with green eyes

-Tallsplash- ginger she cat with dark yellow eyes
-Clouddapple- dark ginger she cat with light green eyes
-Fuzzyfoot- dark ginger tom with dark yellow eyes
-Applecloud- dark gray tom with a brown nose

Former CloudClan
Cloudstar- first leader- light ginger she cat with white patches and sky blue eyes
Sagestar- second leader- sand colored classic tabby tom with dark green eyes
Pinesap- former medicine cat- light brown she cat
Gorseowl- former medicine cat- light gray spotted tom with light brown eyes and paws
Lionlight- former medicine cat- ginger and light ginger tabby tom
Winddawn- white tom with gray paws and a gray tail tip
-Pouncewing- dark gray she cat with dark ginger paws
-Seedclaw- light ginger tom with silver ears

Former FrostClan
Froststar- first leader- dark gray and black spotted tom
Whiskerstar- second leader- light tortoiseshell tom
Stumpypatch- former medicine cat- dark brown tom with white patches
-Featherstem- former medicine cat- gray she cat
-Snakeflame- dark cream she cat
Spiritecho- light ginger tom with white stripes
-Reedpaw- black she cat with light green eyes
Rippleswift- dark gray tom with dark blue eyes
-Cloverfoot- brown spotted tabby tom

Former MoonClan
Moonstar- first leader- blueish gray she cat with wide yellow eyes
Coalstar- second leader- black and dark gray tabby tom with yellow eyes
Foxstar- third leader- calico tom with dark green eyes
-Pebblestar- fourth leader- black she cat with gray patches
Buzzardsky- former medicine cat- black and white she cat
Specklespirit- former medicine cat- light brown speckled tom
Splashthorn- dark gray spotted tabby she cat
-Molefrost- brown tom with light brown paws

-Sunstripe- black she cat with a white nose
-Splashflight- gray tom with a ginger muzzle
-Hollypaw- light brown tom with light gray paws

Blackpaw

A/N: Just curious, who are your favorite characters? If you leave a comment telling me, I just might write about them next. *wink wink*

Claws raked down Blackpaw's side and she whipped around to face her attacker with a loud hiss. She was about to attack when a yowl caught her attention.
"We have scented not one but *two* of your warriors on our land!" It was Swiftstar. He had pinned Froststar to the ground and was now only and inch from her face, spitting out accusations.
He went after Wetwave, then. Blackpaw thought, remembering the panic that had set in the morning after Froststar took over control of the camp. Everything had been peaceful until they realized that one of their warriors was missing. It was Riverice. Suddenly, another though popped into her head.
"I thought Wetwave was going to be a kittypet. Why'd she go through MoonClan territory if FrostClan shared a border with Twolegplace?"
"Because I told her to." Smallpaw yelped through a mouthful of fur. He was scuffling with the cat she had hissed at earlier.
"Sorry." She muttered, darting forward to aide in the attack. "Anyway, what do you mean, you told her to?"
"Don't you remember?" He panted, trying to be flung off as the cat shook itself. "Ya know, how your sister just... Disappeared?"
"She didn't just disappear." Blackpaw hissed, pushed back the confusion about what that had to do with Wetwave. "She was kidnapped and murdered!" She raked her claws across the MoonClan cat's face to add emphasis to her words.
"Nah, she disappeared. They didn't kill her, there's too much evidence against it." Smallpaw pointed out causally, attempting to renew his grip on the MoonClan cat's back. "So I told Wetwave all the evidence I found and she believed me and set off to find her. Pretty smart of me, huh? You're welcome."
Blackpaw pushed back the instinctive growl that rose in her throat as she noticed the smug look on his face.

"In that case, thanks." She mewed, watching with pride as the MoonClan warrior they had been fighting darted away.
"And why did no one bother to tell me?"
Both apprentices spun around at the harsh tone, expecting to see Froststar or Mudpad or Buzzarddrop. But, instead, they came face to face with a furious Flowerpaw.
"W-well..." Smallpaw began. Flowerpaw cut him off.
"Here I am, silently grieving every day, while you two don't have a care in the world because she's alive but no one bothered to tell me! Don't you think I care about her, too?" He hissed.
Smallpaw and Blackpaw glanced at each other, feeling like kits being scolded by their father.
"In all fairness, I only learned this news today..."
Still looking furious, Flowerpaw turned away and leaped back into battle.
"Well!" Smallpaw exclaimed, looking dramatically over-offended by the outburst.
"Anyway..." Blackpaw meowed slowly, turning away. "Let's go find another warrior to attack."
"Yeah!"

Wetwave

Wetwave opened her eyes, startled by the fact that she was wrapped in a soft pelt rather than leaves and moss. Glancing around, she found that she was on a plush twoleg-thing. Beside her was the male twoleg from the day before.
"What is this thing?" She asked out loud. She jumped when a voice answered.
"The thing you're wrapped in or the thing you're on?"
She quickly scanned the area, attempting to locate the source of the words. Next to her, on the opposite side from the twoleg, was a light gray she cat. Wetwave could help but notice the orange collar she was wearing. It matched her orange eyes perfectly.
"Both, I guess."
"Well, Callie, you are wrapped in a 'blanket' and sitting on a 'sofa'." The kittypet explained, stretching out and emphasizing the unfamiliar words.
"Wait, why'd you call me Callie?"
"Because that's what Mark named you."
"Mark?"
"Our housefolk."
"You mean twoleg?"
The kittypet rolled her eyes.
"Sure, wildcat."
"So... What did... Mark... Name you?" Wetwave asked. The word felt strange and it took her and bit to form it.
"Bell!" She announced proudly, swatting at the bell on Wetwave's collar for emphasis. Wetwave stared at it for a minute, surprised she hadn't noticed if before. It was blue, the same shade of blue as her eyes. "Anyway, wildcat, clearly you came from a clan. I can tell from the way you speak and the way you smell. Mostly the second thing. Care to tell me anything about that?"
Wetwave shook her head. "That's all in the past now."
Bell, who normally didn't care much for the outdoors, could not suppress a pang of disappointment.
"I'll leave you to resting, then." Bell mewed, leaping down from the sofa. Wetwave watched her walk away, a bit saddened.

"Well..." She began reluctantly. "Maybe I'll be willing to talk about FrostClan when I wake up."
Bell kept walking as if she did not care, but Wetwave did not miss the smile flickering across her face.
"Cya then, Callie."

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Wetwave awoke later that night to find Bell waiting beside her, shifting around impatiently.
"Finally, she's awake!" The kittypet mewed dramatically. Wetwave huffed, pulling herself up and shaking the blanket off.
"So... What do you want to know?"
Bell perked her ears. "To be honest, I didn't think you'd actually want to talk about it."
"But that didn't stop you from thinking up a list of questions, did it?"
Bell did not confirm nor deny the fact that she had been thinking about this conversation the whole time Wetwave was asleep.
"You're from FrostClan, right? Is that the one closest to the Twolegplace?"
"It is."
"So did you get captured?"
"Yes. I did."
"Then why aren't you trying to escape?"
"Because I left my clan to become a kittypet. I was captured on my way to find myself a home."
"That's convenient."
"Not really."
"Why not?"
"I had a job to get done before I formally became a kittypet."
Bell's eyes sparked with interest. "And what was that?"
Wetwave looked away, shifting her gaze toward the ground. "That I don't want to talk about yet. It will only sadden me."
Bell nodded. Silently, she leaped down from the sofa. "I'll wake you again when Mark brings us our food." She called as she walked away. "You should keep resting for now. You're still weak. I can tell."
Wetwave watched her walk away once again. But as much as she wanted to respect the she cat, she did not want to sleep. Instead she

paced around, gathering all the information she may need to tell Bell in future conversations.

Flowerpaw

"What are you doing here?" Flowerpaw hissed, ears flattened and eyes wide. Russetblaze stepped forward, keeping the fuming apprentice away from the Siamese trespasser.
"I recognize you. You're a kittypet, right? The one who joined IceClan?"
The young tom nodded hesitantly.
"Are you headed home?"
Another nod.
"In that case, we will let you pass. Gorseflower! Sandlight! Escort him to the Twolegplace."
Russetblaze and Flowerpaw watched them go, the apprentice lashing his tail in fury. Once the group was out of earshot, Russetblaze turned to confront his apparent.
"That certainly wasn't like you. You already passed your warrior assessment a sunrise ago. You'll be a warrior soon! Warriors can't act like that." He scolded. Flowerpaw shifted his gaze away, shame washing over him.
"I know, it's just..." He paused, letting anger well up inside him again. "I just can't believe they didn't tell me!"
"Who didn't tell you what?"
Flowerpaw shook his head. "It's nothing. Just... Forget I said anything."
Lashing his tail, he turned and stalked off. Russetblaze just stared after him in confusion.

"I, Froststar, leader of FrostClan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down upon my warrior ancestors to look down upon these apprentices. They have trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code and I commend them to you as warriors in their turn."
"Stonepaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and protect and defend this clan, even at the cost of your life?"
"I do." Stonepaw meowed, looking far more serious than usually.
"Then by the powers of SunClan, I give you your warrior name. Stonepaw, from this moment on you will be known as Stonespeckle. SunClan honors your spirit and your enthusiasm and we welcome

you as a full warrior of FrostClan."
Stonespeckle beamed with pride, even as he tripped over his own paws while attempting to make room for his brother to step forward.
"Flowerpaw, do you promise to uphold the warrior code and protect and defend this clan, even at the cost of your life?"
"I do." He said with a straight face, managing to quell is anger for the time being.
"Then by the powers of SunClan, I give you your warrior name. Flowerpaw, from this moment on you will be known as Flowerstem. SunClan honors your strength and your determination and we welcome you as as a full warrior of FrostClan."
"Stonespeckle! Flowerstem! Stonespeckle! Flowerstem!"
The remaining apprentices darted forward to congratulate their old friends. It did not escape the attention of Stonespeckle that Blackpaw and Smallpaw only congratulated him and stayed away from Flowerstem.

"This will be fun, huh? The two of us... Finally warriors!" Stonespeckle purred.
"We aren't supposed to talk during our vigil." Flowerstem hissed under his breath, not taking his eyes off of the trees in the distance.
"So, uh, what's up with Blackpaw and Smallpaw?" He asked after a long pause.
"What did I just say?"
"C'mon it's almost moonhigh! Everybody's asleep. No one will hear!"
A sigh echoed from beside him and he glanced over at his brother. He watched the cloud his breath had made disappear. No one spoke.
"Fine."
A smile flickered across Stonespeckle's face for a heartbeat.
"Apparently... Foxpaw is alive. And they both knew, but... No one bothered to tell me."
"That's it? That's the big secret?"
Stonespeckle felt snow spray his pelt as Flowerstem's tail whipped across the snow-covered ground.
"You really don't care about her, huh?"
"And so what if I don't?" Stonespeckle huffed. He waited, staring at his brothers face, for a response. None came.
And so, the two brothers finished their vigil in silence.

Pinepounce

"Troutpaw?"
"Pinepaw? No way!"
The two cats shared a moment of stunned silence before Pinepounce finally spoke.
"I thought you were dead."
"C'mon, really?" She laughed. "You think a little old fox could kill *me*?"
"Right, right. You're the perfect warrior." He murmured sarcastically. Then he shook his head. "Anyway, what are we doing waiting around here? We have to get you home!"
He set off toward IceClan, glancing over his shoulder to make sure she was following.

"Troutpaw? You're alive!" Robinmist cried, rushing to meet his only remaining family. "I don't have to be alone anymore..."
"What? What do you mean? Where's mom? And Fuzzypaw and Applepaw?" Troutpaw glanced around the camp, confused.
"Oh, your brothers got their warrior names! Fuzzyfoot and Applecloud. But..." He stepped aside, revealing the body laid out in the clearing.
"No..."
"We've already buried your mother, and... We couldn't recover Fuzzyfoot's body."
Troutpaw collapsed onto the floor, clearly overwhelmed. The clan seemed to morn with her and Pinepounce shuffled awkwardly around in the camp entrance, taking note of a cage in the corner and the wide blue eyes watching him from it.
Is that..? Yes, it has to be. Longstar announced that IceClan had taken Rowanpaw. I can bring him back as a way to prove myself and apologize for running off!
Silently, he began to work out a plan.
"Right." Troutpaw meowed suddenly. She sniffles and wiped a paw across her nose. "There's something I have to tell you all."
"Go ahead." Prompted Crowstar.
Troutpaw took a deep breath.

"While I was away, I received an omen."
Gorgepaw, Sorrelwing, and Bluefire simultaneously peeked out of the medicine den.
"It was a dream, I was just... Walking around. It seemed so normal that I thought it was real. But then it stared to rain."
The cats glanced at each other in alarm.
"There was hardly any snow on the ground."
The cats look terrified.
"And then I heard the words: You have been warned. Go, spread the word. And then I woke up in the den of the foxes who took me."
"How did you escape?" Robinmist gasped.
"They had me cornered. I had no choice. I had to kill them all."
Crowstar nodded, clearly impressed. Rippleberry stared at her, an unreadable expression on his face.
"Well, now that she's delivered her news..." Pinepounce stepped forward. "I see that you have something I want."
Before anyone could processes what was going on, Pinepounce knocked Troutpaw to the ground and unsheathed his claws.
"Release Rowanpaw, or she dies!" He hissed, claws pressing into her throat. But his plan was not well thought out. Both Crowstar and Rippleberry gave the signal and not a heartbeat later, he was completely surrounded.
Dear SunClan, what have I gotten myself into?

Epilouge

Rowanpaw is imprisoned in the IceClan camp!
Foxpaw and Gemini are still searching for FrostClan!
Wetwave has been locked away by Twolegs and can no longer search for Foxpaw!
Riverice went missing without warning!
Carter went missing while searching for Willy!
Willy has been kicked out of IceClan and no longer has any way of seeing Stripepaw!
MoonClan is still at war with FrostClan!
Flowerstem is highly upset with Blackpaw and Smallpaw!
Troutpaw's life is in danger!
Pinepounce is surrounded by all of IceClan!
Rippleberry is slowly taking over IceClan!
Grayshadow is finding it difficult to fight back against his brother!
How will all these issues be resolved? Find out in the sequel, The Melting Forest!